

the Hippo

JANUARY 18 - 24, 2024

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▶ Best of 2024 ◀ February 1-29

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ON THE COVER

10 Do you agree that there is no such thing as "too many books"? This is your story. We take a look at four area book stores and talk to the staff members about trends in reading, trends in shopping and what makes a physical book store special. We also get some recommendations from these professional book folks for some new reads and point you toward a few book groups if you want to meet some new people to talk books with. Know of any book events, clubs or more not mentioned here? Let us know at adiaz@hippopress.com.



ALSO ON THE COVER It ain't just award season in Hollywood. Voting for Hippo's Best of 2024 starts soon — Thursday, Feb. 1, at 12:01 a.m. See page 6 for the details. Also, Mya Blanchard talks to Barbara George, who you may remember from her contributions to our recent cookie swap story, about her business Auntie B's Greek Pastries.

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NEWS & NOTES

Fire safety

The New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's Office is commemorating Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week from Jan. 15 to Jan. 21, aiming to raise awareness about fire safety and prevention in the community, according to a press release. During this period, residents are reminded of critical fire safety practices, especially given that cooking and heating are leading causes of home fires in New Hampshire. The state has experienced more than 100 civilian injuries due to fires between 2020 and 2023, highlighting the importance of preventive measures. Key safety tips include vigilant cooking, maintaining safe zones around heating equipment and ensuring the proper functioning of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. CRR Week offers resources for both the public and fire service professionals, emphasizing the integrated approach of education, engineering, enforcement, emergency response and economic incentives in fire risk reduction. Visit CRRWeek.org.

Lead testing

The New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) has released a bulletin mandating that health insurers cover blood lead testing for 1- and 2-year-old children without cost-sharing, in compliance with the Affordable Care Act. According to a press release, the directive comes after noticing that some insurers were not following ACA guidelines, which prohibit cost-sharing for

preventive services, including lead screening. The NHID emphasizes adherence to Health Resources and Services Administration and American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations, ensuring New Hampshire's children can access necessary lead testing without financial barriers. This move aligns with recent Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidance, extending no-cost provisions to follow-up testing as well. Insurers are advised to review their practices in light of this bulletin to uphold health care coverage standards and protect the health of young children in the state.

New director

Richard K. Sala has been appointed as the new director of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR New Hampshire), under the New Hampshire Department of Education. According to a press release, Sala's experience and qualifications include a Master of Business Administration and Master of Environmental Law and Policy, as well as a membership with the New Hampshire Bar Association since 2013. With a background including service in the U.S. Marines and roles in education and law, Sala will manage VR New Hampshire's operations, focusing on aiding individuals with disabilities and engaging with business partners. His tasks will involve shaping long-term strategies for meaningful career development and meeting workforce objectives. He succeeds Lisa Hinson-Hatz,

who served the department for two decades and has moved on to a similar role in a different location.

Mandatory minimums

Gov. Chris Sununu has officially endorsed Senate Bills 414 and 415, which introduce mandatory minimum sentences for drug trafficking and distribution offenses resulting in death, specifically targeting large quantities of controlled substances like fentanyl. According to a press release, these bills represent the state's intensified efforts to address the drug crisis by imposing stringent penalties on drug dealers whose actions contribute to fatalities. Gov. Sununu's support is documented in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee, urging the advancement of these bills to reflect the severity of the drug-related challenges facing New Hampshire.

Athletes on the run

Special Olympics New Hampshire (SONH) has launched a year-long campaign called "Running For Special Olympics," focused on running. According to a press release, the campaign includes a fitness program to encourage SONH athletes to run independently or participate in organized races across the state, as well as a series of fundraising events related to running. Millennium Running, based in Bedford, has named SONH as its official charity for 2024, allowing Special Olympics athletes to take part in 14 Millennium Running

Catholic Medical Center in Manchester has become the first in New England to successfully implement AVEIR™ DR, the world's first dual chamber leadless pacemaker system. According to a press release, this new technology by Abbott, FDA-approved in June 2023, provides a minimally invasive treatment for patients with abnormal heart rhythms requiring pacing in both the right atrium and ventricle. The system enhances patient care with a smaller device size, leadless placement and synchronized pacing between two pacemakers using i2i™ technology, which facilitates communication through the body's blood.

Daniel Douidi has been sworn in as the new chief of the **Bedford** Police Department, succeeding retired Chief John Bryfonski. According to a press release, Chief Douidi, who has served with the Bedford Police for 33 years, began his career as a part-time special police officer in Manchester in 1987 and joined Bedford Police as a full-time officer in 1989. He has steadily risen through the ranks, holding positions including captain and deputy chief. Chief Douidi said he aims to improve department morale and make it an attractive place to work, focusing on hiring, training and retention, and emphasized an open-door policy and prioritizing the needs of Bedford's citizens.

The United Way of Greater **Nashua** has launched the Tech Connect United Laptop Donation Program, accepting donations of working laptops, tablets or smartphones. According to a newsletter, these devices will be cleared of data, refurbished and distributed to children, job-seekers, college students and seniors in the community, with the aim of enhancing digital access for telehealth, job searches and educational purposes. Donations can be made at their Nashua office (20 Broad St.) during weekdays or by appointment. This effort is supported by Microsoft's Tech Spark Fellowship Grant Funding.

signature events. SONH staff and volunteers will attend these races to provide information about the organization's programs. Approximately 40,000 runners are expected to participate in the 14 signature events in 2024.

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Après Ski and ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Liqueurs: The Perfect Base Lodge Duo

Skiing in New Hampshire is a fantastic experience with a variety of beautiful mountain ranges and endless opportunities to hit the slopes. After a day of skiing in the crisp winter air, as the snow-capped mountains glisten under the golden rays of the setting sun, the time-honored tradition of Après Ski begins. Skiers and snowboarders gather to celebrate a day of exhilarating adventure, seeking the perfect companion to enhance the post-mountain experience. Look no further than ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Liqueurs – the ultimate indulgence that elevates Après Ski to new heights.

ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Liqueurs offer a symphony of flavors carefully crafted to tantalize the taste buds. Its velvety smoothness and rich chocolate notes create a taste that is nothing short of extraordinary. With each sip, the luxurious blend of chocolate, premium spirits, and fresh dairy cream dance on the palate, leaving behind a lingering sweetness that warms the soul. It is the perfect reward for a day well spent on the slopes.

As the cold mountain air nips at your cheeks, this decadent liqueur wraps you in a cozy embrace. With ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Liqueurs in hand, you can fully immerse yourself in the Après Ski experience, feeling rejuvenated and content. Sit back, kick your feet up by the fire and indulge in all that ChocoLat Deluxe has to offer.

ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Liqueurs is a line of the highest-quality chocolate liqueurs on the market, crafted from fresh cream and premium spirits. Available at most New Hampshire State Liquor & Wine Outlets in Triple Chocolate, Salted Caramel, White Chocolate & Peanut Butter. Each product is meant to be enjoyed over ice, mixed in a cocktail, or simply drizzled over ice cream or a favorite dessert.

Recipe ideas for the perfect Après Ski experience!

ChocoLat Campfire S'mores Cocktail

- 1 oz. New Riff Kentucky Bourbon
- 2 oz ChocoLat Triple Chocolate Liqueur
- .5 oz Irish Cream



Graham Cracker crumbs
Chocolate Syrup
Toasted Marshmallow

Rim glass with chocolate syrup and graham cracker crumbs. Add bourbon, ChocoLat Deluxe

Triple Chocolate Liqueur and Irish cream to shaker glass with ice. Shake and strain over ice.

Garnish with toasted marshmallow.

ChocoLat Deluxe White Chocolate Liqueur Martini

- 1 oz. ChocoLat Deluxe White Chocolate Liqueur
- 1 oz. Grainger's Deluxe Organic Vodka
- 1 oz. crème de cacao
- .5 oz. milk

Combine all ingredients in a shaker with ice. Shake and strain into a glass. Garnish with white

chocolate shavings. Cheers!
ChocoLat Deluxe Peanut Butter Cup
2 oz Bird Dog Peanut Butter Flavored Whiskey

5 oz ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Peanut Butter Cup Liqueur
Combine whiskey and ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate Peanut Butter Cup Liqueur. Shake with ice.

Strain into martini glass. Garnish with miniature peanut butter cups

Or just enhance your Hot Cocoa by adding a shot of any of the ChocoLat Deluxe Chocolate

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Feb. 1 - Feb. 29



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Voting will be conducted online at hippopress.com. Look for the "Hippo Best of 2024" link to find the survey starting at midnight on Thursday, Feb. 1. Online ballots must be completed by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 29.

142206

Show on pause

Andrew Pinard discusses the future of Hatbox Theatre

The transformation of Steeplegate Mall in Concord into a mixed-use development necessitates the relocation of several tenants, one of which is the Hatbox Theatre. Founded in 2016 by Andrew Pinard, Hatbox Theatre has been an active entity in the local arts community. The absence of a long-term lease now leads to the theater's imminent closure, disrupting a season that was set to include 15 diverse productions. Pinard talked about the impact of this development on the theater, its future plans and the broader implications for the arts community in Concord. See hatboxnh.com for updates.

Q: *What exactly transpired with the closure of Hatbox Theatre?*

The closure was abrupt. We knew there was a possibility of this happening when the previous owners evicted almost everyone without long-term leases nearly two years ago, but the actual timing was unexpected. The city has been pushing to get rid of the mall and replace it with housing, and they finally found a developer who bought the mall. This new developer plans to demolish the buildings and construct 625 market-rate apartments, along with a Costco and Whole Foods. Communication with the new owners was scarce, and we struggled to get information. We were assured at one point that we would have until May or June of 2024, but suddenly, in November, just before Thanksgiving, we were informed that we had to be out by the end of January. It was quite a shock.

What has been the community's response?

There's a lot of people who are very sad and very disappointed that we might close permanently if we can't find another space to work in. Our audiences and the artists who have performed here are really supportive and enthusiastic about us finding a new space, and we're grateful for them. I've had recommendations from dozens of people suggesting various spaces. The community's reaction shows their deep investment in Hatbox and their concern for the future of local arts in our area. Unfortunately I haven't been too optimistic about the elected, civic and business leaders in Concord. They acknowledge our work but haven't fought very hard to keep us in the community. They never really made us feel like we were something special.

What immediate steps are you taking to manage this transition for Hatbox Theatre?

We've been evaluating a number of spaces for short-term and long-term use. We're looking at Manchester, Epsom, Nashua, Bedford. We've looked at about 28 different locations so far and that includes both

shared spaces and exclusive spaces. We're looking at mid-March at the very earliest to launch programming in other nomadic locations. Our business model has always been that ticket sales cover the overhead of the space while allowing us to give 55 percent of the revenue to the production companies that are in the space. We are transitioning the organization to a not-for-profit to potentially expand our revenue beyond ticket sales, which could conceivably mean that we can purchase a location so that we're not at the mercy of somebody kicking us out. That would also mean we could begin fundraising and things of that nature so that we can afford places like that.

How do you think this will affect Concord's art scene?

It's going to be a big loss for Concord, for the local artists and for the audience who regularly attend our shows. We're in our ninth year now, and we've had over 36,000 people through our space since we opened in April 2016. We've hosted numerous world premieres and given a platform to local artists. Our venue was a place where smaller production companies and local artists could showcase their work. Many local artists got their start here, and without Hatbox there's a fear that emerging talents might not find similar opportunities. The local arts scene will lose a unique venue that provided a space for experimental and avant-garde productions. Its closure could mean a more homogenized arts scene in the city. It's not just about losing a physical space. It's about losing a community hub for artists and audiences alike.

What are you looking for in a community to relocate to?

We want a community that really either wants us or needs us and really deeply wants to be involved. Ideally we'd find a community that has a space like a mill building or a fire station that they're looking to repurpose to reinvest in their community. And we're looking for a community that will support the community that has supported us. — *Angie Sykeny* 🐘

Elvis leaves the building



The Big Story: After 24 years of mostly excellence **Bill Belichick** is out as head coach of the Patriots, something that until recently seemed unfathomable. Followed by the choice of **Jerod Mayo**, which we'll have

more on later.

Old-Timers Sports 101: Name the two QB's involved in the shocking 1964 QB-QB trade between Philadelphia and Washington.

News Item – Coaches: Whether it was a firing, a push out, resignation or mutual agreements, last week was a landmark for coaches in football. This generation's greatest pro and college coaches, Belichick and **Nick Saban**, are stunningly out in Foxboro and Alabama respectively. And they were followed out the door by **Pete Carroll** after 14 years in Seattle, the highly regarded **Mike Vrabel** in Tennessee and possibly **Jim Harbaugh** at Michigan if the (annual) rumors going around are to be believed. All will likely show up on TV or a sideline somewhere again. But it's a sea change to be sure, which few expected when 2023 began.

News Item – Pats' Jerod Mayo: The succession plan was already in place and Kraft lived up to it by hiring Mayo to replace Belichick; chillingly, if he hired a coach before he hired a new general manager, the new GM will probably come from the same pool of people who've been drafting so poorly for years.

News Item – Michigan Football: It was a good week for football in Michigan. First their U demolished Washington to win the national championship in college football. Then the Lions beat the Rams and their one-time star **Matthew Stafford** 24-23 for their first playoff win since 1992 while keeping their hopes alive to win their first NFL championship (1957) in 66 years!

And if you're keeping score on the biggest QB-QB swap since the 1960s of Stafford for **Jared Goff**: No fewer than five key guys in Sunday's win came to Detroit directly from L.A. or future draft picks from the deal. Including TD's in the game from RB **Jahmyr Gibbs** and rookie tight end **Matt LaPorta**.

The Numbers:

0 – Green Bay Packers voted to the NFL Pro Bowl game, compared to seven for Dallas, whom GB annihilated Sunday 48-34.

4 – times Celtics get a life Coach **Joe Mazzulla** told the media he watches the **Ben Affleck**-directed Boston heist film *The Town* each week.

... Of the Week Awards:

Best Coach B Line – at his Press Con-

ference: "I haven't seen this many cameras since we signed [Tim] Tebow."

Fun Media Feud – Steven A. Smith vs. Jason Whitlock: It started with the Blaze provocateur calling into question the truth in Smith's recent book, to which he responded by calling Whitlock a "fat b-----!" Two best shots were Whitlock calling him "Stephen A Myth" and Smith saying, "This is the dude that will have a funeral that ain't got no pallbearers."

Worst Sneakers – Giannis Antetokounmpo: Those chartreuse numbers he wore Thursday against the Celtics. You've got to be secure to wear a pair of those.

Thumbs Down – NBA Discipline Czar: For cutting habitual offender **Draymond Green**'s latest suspension to just 12 games. What are they going to say next time (and there will be one), "This time we really, really mean it, Dray"?" Booooo.

Sports 101 Answer: Washington got future Hall of Famer **Sonny Jurgensen** while Philly got **Norm Snead**, who was later traded to the G-Men for another HoF quarterback, **Fran Tarkenton**.

Final Thought – Bob Kraft: Let's just say I'm not optimistic that the decisions made last week were the right ones.

Moving Coach B out puts approval-craving owner **Bob Kraft** at center stage in the team's reconstruction. After lucking into **Tom Brady** way back when and now not having Belichick to shield him from criticism when things go haywire, he's now the one to look at over what happens going forward. And while it's not quite the same, hopefully it'll go better than for similarly credit-conscious Dallas owner **Jerry Jones** after his battle of egos with **Jimmy Johnson** led to JJ's departure from Dallas after winning two Super Bowls. Because it's 28 years and counting since the Boys have even been back to the NFC title game, let alone the Super Bowl, after the architect of their three SB wins in the 1990s left the building. And while it had to end sooner or later, it makes me wonder if that's what's in store for New England as well. Especially when Kraft picked a totally untested defensive guy to lead a 4-13 team crying out for a new age mind to fix the worst offensive team in franchise history.

And there's an unsettling historical parallel with **Butch Hobson**, who Red Sox GM **Lou Gorman** elevated far above his capability to be his manager because Lou was somehow afraid he'd get stolen away by another team. Which sounds a lot like Mayo's story.

So I'll ask this: How'd that turn out? Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Food Bank funds



Courtesy photo.

The New Hampshire Liquor Commission (NHLC) raised a record \$180,000 for the New Hampshire Food Bank at its 10th annual Distiller's Showcase of Premium Spirits. According to a press release, the event, held on Nov. 2, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown, is the region's largest spirits tasting expo and featured over 1,000 guests sampling from 600 premium spirits. The New Hampshire Food Bank procured and provided more than 16.3 million pounds of food in 2023 to over 400 nonprofit food agencies. The funds raised at the Distiller's Showcase will help provide thousands of nutritious meals to individuals and families facing food insecurity. The Distiller's Showcase is part of the larger Distiller's Week, featuring events and tastings across the state with celebrities and industry experts.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *The NHLC has worked with suppliers and brokers over the past eight years to raise more than \$4 million for various nonprofit organizations in New Hampshire and beyond, contributing to causes like Best Buddies New Hampshire, Easterseals New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Lodging and Restaurant Association.*

We beg to differ, WalletHub

In a recent study by WalletHub, New Hampshire was ranked as the 45th best state to start a business, out of all 50 U.S. states. This ranking was based on a comprehensive analysis of 25 key indicators of startup success, considering factors like financing accessibility, labor costs and office-space affordability. Despite being a challenging environment for new businesses, New Hampshire showed specific strengths and weaknesses in the study: It ranked 26th in the average growth of small businesses, but lower in other areas like labor costs (44th) and availability of human capital (48th). The state's average length of the work week was ranked 32nd, with the cost of living and industry variety coming in at 41st and 34th respectively.

QOL score: -1

Comment: *This ranking is part of a larger national trend where about 20 percent of new businesses fail within their first year. The challenges are compounded by factors like inflation and labor shortages.*

It's winter somewhere

Ice Castles in North Woodstock, New Hampshire, a popular winter attraction in New England, is set to open earlier than anticipated at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20. According to a press release, the original opening date was planned for Jan. 26, but favorable colder temperatures have allowed for an earlier launch. The attraction, located in the White Mountains, features a range of interactive experiences, including ice-carved tunnels, fountains, slides, frozen thrones and a Polar Ice Bar. Additionally, visitors can enjoy horse-drawn sleigh rides, snow tubing, a mystic light walk, and cascading towers of ice with color-changing LED lights. Tickets for the grand opening are available on the Ice Castles website at icecastles.com/new-hampshire.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Ice Castles was founded in 2011 by Brent Christensen, who developed the process to create these frozen attractions initially as a winter playground for his children.*

QOL score: 48

Net change: +1

QOL this week: 49

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THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

JANUARY 18 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Jan. 20

It's the third Saturday in January, which means it's the annual winter **Free Fishing Day** in New Hampshire. Residents and non-residents can fish in any inland water or saltwater in New Hampshire without a fishing license (though season dates and bag limits are still in effect), according to wildlife.nh.gov, where you can find details about the day.



Saturday, Jan. 20

Come for the art, stay for the Bruce. The winter show (running through March) is up at the **Sandy Clearly Community Art Gallery** at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashuacenterforthearts.com) featuring photographers Brenda McDougland, Seth Dewey, Craig Michaud and Dan Splaine. Find more about the artists at nashuacommunityarts.org/sandy-clearly-community-art-gallery. Check out the exhibit and then stay for tonight's 8 p.m. show **Bruce in the USA** (with Matt Ryan and musicians presenting a celebration of the music of Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band); tickets cost \$29 to \$59.

Saturday, Jan. 20

The 21+ show **Life's a Drag**, described as a fiercely hilarious drag show, comes to Chunky's Cinema Pub in Manchester (707 Huse Road; chunkys.com) on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 9 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets to this approximately two-hour show cost \$25 (plus fees).

oscars.org). In this week's film section (page 31) see reviews of some Oscar hopefuls (*Poor Things* and *Wonka*) and listings of where to catch other possible contenders. 🗣️



Tuesday, Jan. 23

It's **nomination morning** for the 96th annual Academy Awards (the Oscars, which will air on Sunday, March 10); the announcement usually starts during the 8 a.m. Eastern hour (see

Save the Date!

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Spend Galentine's Day with the ladies of the Rockford Peaches when Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord; redrivertheatres.org, 224-4600) screens *A League of Their Own* at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$15. And remember, "There's no crying in baseball!"

Friday, Jan. 19

It's opening night for *Dancing Queens*, billed as the Ultimate ABBA and Disco Tribute, which runs 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.

Saturday, Jan. 20

Catch **Beatlejuice** tonight at 8 p.m. at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusicichall.com). Tickets cost \$33. Find more concerts this weekend and beyond on page 38.

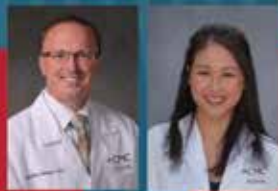
Heart-to-Heart:
Community
Conversations
with Heart Experts

got heart questions?

Join us for free heart month presentations led by our cardiologists. Get all your heart-related questions answered, enjoy refreshments and enter the raffle for a chance to win exciting prizes!

Sat, Feb 3

Heart Health and Risk Reduction
Jonathan Eddinger, MD, FACC, FASE



Understanding Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection (SCAD)
Michelle Ouellette, MD, FACC, FSCAI



9-10:30 am

Sat, Feb 17

Navigating Atrial Fibrillation (A-Fib)
Jeanney Lew, MD

Heart Failure
Robert Capodilupo, MD, FACC

9-10:30 am

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CatholicMedicalCenter.org/heart2heart
195 McGregor Street | Manchester NH



BROWSE FOR ADVENTURE

IN PRAISE OF THE BRICK AND MORTAR BOOKSTORE PLUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW READS AND BOOK CLUBS TO JOIN

Gibson's Bookstore. Photo by Ryan Clark.

By Mya Blanchard
listings@hippypress.com

There's nothing quite like the experience of shopping at your local independent bookstore, and luckily New Hampshire has several. Here's what those in the business had to say about the local book shopping experience and current reading trends.

Balin Books

Previously the Nashua location of Toadstool Bookshop, Balin Books introduced its new name in early 2023 (Balin rhymes with "gallon," according to the store's Facebook page). The store is still under the ownership of one of the original founders.

"We have a new name but ... nothing else has changed about our business other than the fact that there's a different sign above the door," said manager Michael Joachim. A general book store, Balin Books is able to tailor its stock to what the community wants.

What do people get from shopping at bookstores that they don't get online? What is that experience like and why do you think people seek it?

It's interesting because ... there was a pretty big crisis following the rise of Borders and Barnes & Noble, which dramatically changed the landscape. Bookstores adjusted and they kind of survived that and then Amazon and other online purchasing came and that was another big crisis that reduced a number of stores, and the people that were left, I think, were the real survivors, the people who figured out how to be an asset to the community and to offer something that people actually wanted rather than just a bunch

of companies that opened stores willy-nilly all over the landscape and didn't really have a way to survive. I think there's always ... a foundation

... of people who, while they might buy books online, they want the experience of wandering through the store and actually seeing what's available in front of them as opposed to poking on a screen, flip through a book, get a look at what's actually in it, compare to what else is available in that same category and that same subject and make a decision right away and buy it. They just want to absorb what's out there and you're never going to get that online, and that's very important to a significant number of people, so if you can create that environment where browsing is a pleasurable, informative experience, and have the right selection and the right services, you will survive and do well.

How have local bookstores, and yours specifically, fared with the times and trends of online shopping with sites like Amazon and big bookstores like Barnes & Noble? How have you adapted and changed?

I think you've got to be involved in the community. We do a lot of work with the local schools, there are educators that come to us and we help either provide books for the class or get discounts for kids who need it in their classes. We're connected to the Nashua Public Library pretty well ... You have to have a great selection. You [have] to have an inventory that matches what your community is looking to buy, looking to browse. You also have knowledgeable people who know how to help and have some experience and can answer some of those questions. A lot of people are intimidated when they walk

into a bookstore because they don't want to look dumb. They don't want to ask questions that may make them uncomfortable. If you walk into ... a bigger chain store like that where the turnover is more substantial, if that person doesn't know what you're trying to find and then you make the customer feel uncomfortable, the whole thing just gets a little weird. People love that when they come in here ... [if they] don't understand what it is they're looking for we can help them get to the answer without making them feel uncomfortable.

Have you noticed any other patterns or trends of shopping at local bookstores?

I find a lot of people come in and say that they're really pleased that we're here. ... When I started in the business ... almost every town or every couple of towns had a local bookstore where people could come and get what they needed. That's changed dramatically. You can go 20 miles without a bookstore now. I think for the bookstores that are still here, and the bookstores that are doing well and offer a real service to the community, a lot of people really appreciate that ... they want to support a local, independently owned store and that's gratifying.

When genres seem to be attracting the most interest from readers?

Historically it's always been children's books, which is a big age group anywhere

Balin Books

Where: Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St. in Nashua; 417-7981, balinbooks.com

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Upcoming author events:

• Jeanne Dietsch, to discuss her report *New Hampshire: Battleground in the Fight to Dismantle Democracy*, on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m.

Five recent releases recommended by Balin Books

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

A Stroke of the Pen by Terry Pratchett

The Bee Sting by Paul Murray

My Effin' Life by Geddy Lee

Gator Country by Rebecca Renner

Alfie & Me by Carl Safina

from baby books to young adult. That's a big chunk of our store because a lot of people want to buy books for their children, they want them to read [and] people buy them as gifts. For adults it's fiction, biography, history. But then we have people who want ... self-help books, cookbooks, but within the fiction genre, which is a big chunk of our store, we've got mystery, suspense, horror, science fiction, romance — all those things are a big part of what we offer.

Is there any type of book, whether genre or author, that has become popular in the last few years that has surprised you?

There's been a very big boom in romance, specifically a couple of authors that figured out how to use TikTok to promote themselves and particularly a woman named Colleen Hoover ... [who] I believe ... came out of nowhere to be the bestselling author in the country two years ago ... so it's been interesting to watch how people can work the market place to promote themselves and how it actually works. ... I think an independent store can react a lot more quickly to something like that ... we can just jump on it right away, get some books in pretty quickly and respond to the community.

What was the most popular book of 2023 and what books are you excited for in 2024?

There's a book called *Fourth Wing*, which was a fantasy book that, again, the author [Rebecca Yarros] did something online to promote herself and it was just a huge book. The sequel *Iron Flame* came out right around Christmas time and that was big. And Sarah J. Maas, who writes fantasy books, has a new book coming out next month, which should also be gigantic.

What's the best book you've read recently?

I like the last Stephen King book, *Holly*. ... That was a good book, that's the one that's sticking with me at the moment.

Bookery Manchester

Liz Hitchcock, along with her husband, Jeremy Hitchcock, opened Bookery, a bookstore, gift shop and cafe on Elm Street in Manchester, in 2018 with the goal of creating a venue for civic discourse, community



Balin Books. Courtesy photo.



The Bookery. Courtesy photo.

and culture. A general bookstore, Bookery adjusts inventory to align with what the community is reading, and carries other merchandise like candles, socks, puzzles, cards and more. The store hosts events with authors, a monthly book club, weekly story-times, live music, political talks, workshops and private events.

“We’re really just proactive at seeing what our community’s reading at this time, listening to their feedback on what they want and what they need and following that as our guiding star,” Hitchcock said.

What do people get from shopping at bookstores that they don’t get online? What is that experience like and why do you think people seek it?

I think the main reason why people go to a local bookstore is curation. Obviously I, just like anybody else, can go to Amazon and see ... books and some of them have five stars and some of them have three stars, but in the end I want someone to tell me if I read this book then I might enjoy this book ... There’s nothing better than someone who’s actually read the book telling you that it’s something that you may enjoy, so it’s really about the process of curation — hand selling is gigantic — and then obviously the ability for us to have authors come into our store to meet our customers is really important as well.

Bookery Manchester

Where: 844 Elm St., Manchester; 836-6600, bookerymht.com

When: Sunday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Upcoming author events:

- Joe McQuaid, author of *War Fronts Home Fires*, on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m.
- Joseph Carrabis will hold a workshop called “Write Your History, Change Your Life” on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 5 p.m.
- Matthew Jones, author of *Wish I Could Love You: A Collection of Failed Love Stories* on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m.
- Fox Hollow, author of *Heartstrings*, on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m.

How have local bookstores, and yours specifically, fared with the times and trends of online shopping with sites like Amazon and big bookstores like Barnes & Noble?

I think that in the end we are probably faring a little bit better than places like Barnes & Noble because we do have an entrenched community that we support and we love. I do think that Barnes & Noble is doing a better job at creating that community around them now that they’ve given more free will to the managers of the stores, but I think that we’re doing well even based on the circumstances of the economy and Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Have you noticed any other patterns or trends of shopping at local bookstores?

Not specifically that I can name. We have seen growth year over year, which has been helpful especially with the rising cost of employees and buying books and shipping, so we appreciate that greatly. I think just really the part that still surprises me is adjacent towns that are still surprised when they see that we have a bookstore of our caliber downtown on Elm Street, so even still getting the word and making sure people know that we’re there, what we offer and that we love our community.

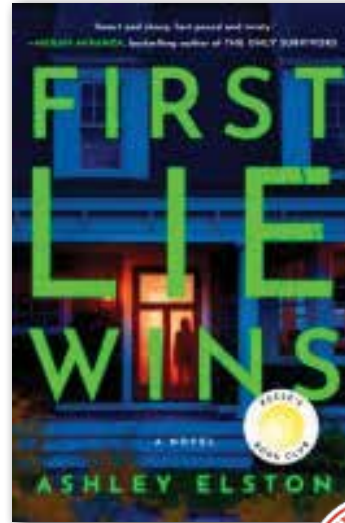
When genres seem to be attracting the most interest from readers?

2023 was a huge year for romantasy, a new hybrid sub-genre between romance and fantasy. Sarah J. Maas is a huge staple of this genre, but this year we have a new heavy hitter in Rebecca Yarros! Her two books *Fourth Wing* and *Iron Flame* both caused such a stir in the book world this year it was hard for bookstores to keep up! *Fourth Wing* centers on a dragon rider academy, with an enemies-to-lovers romance to boot with plenty of spice for those interested!

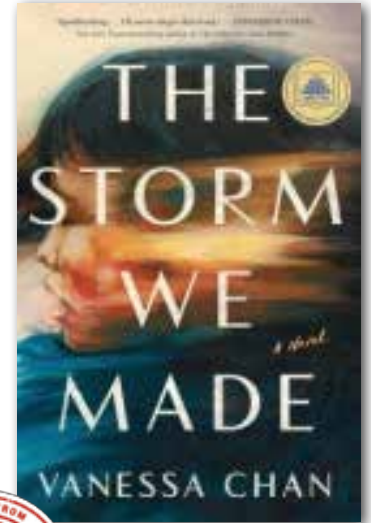
What was the most popular book of 2023 and what books are you excited for in 2024?

Yellowface by R.F. Kuang was a huge

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Youth & Teen Aftercare for NCC Students

This Spring, drop off your youth & teens and head to an evening class at NCC!

Nashua Community College and the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Nashua have partnered to offer NCC parents & caregivers the opportunity to sign their 4th-12th grade students up for aftercare at the Boys & Girls Club this spring.

About the Program

- Parents transport their youth to the Boys & Girls Club
- Parents attend NCC campus evening class till 9:00 PM
- B&G Club staff will transport youth back to NCC for 9:00 PM
- \$40 per child, per academic year

What the Boys & Girls Club offers:

Enrichment for youth of all ages, including Homework help. Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math (STEAM) Activities. Tutoring • Experiential Learning • Access to Technology • College & Career Preparation • Cultural Arts & Dance Activities • Swimming and Mentorship

While at the Club all members receive a snack and dinner at no additional cost! Contact Jayleen for more details!

Jayleen Aleman • Adult Education Coordinator • (603) 578-8953
J.Aleman@ccsnh.edu • nashacc.edu

book for us this year. R.F. Kuang ended 2022 with a huge book in *Babel*, and her new literary fiction rode that high and then some. *Yellowface* is about two authors, one white, one Asian, working on their manuscripts. When the writer of color suddenly dies, the white author takes it upon herself to steal the late writer's manuscript, finish it, and pass it off as her own under a pseudonym. A great commentary and satire on whitewashing in lucrative industries. [In] 2024 — We're really looking toward *Knife* by Salman Rushdie, releasing in April! It's a memoir from the author about his recently survived assassination attempt in 2022, 30 years after a "fatwa" was ordered against him by the Supreme Leader of Iran calling for his assassination. It promises to be an eye-opening read about his first-hand account of that day and what followed. Can't wait!

What's the best book you've read recently?

I recently read and loved *Prophet Song* by Paul Lynch! The hype for this one was crazy, considering it won the Booker Prize in the U.K. before its U.S. publication (I was so excited to read it that I ordered a copy from the U.K. before it came out over here). It tells the story of a civil resistance in Ireland after a nameless government regime cracking down on unions and anti-state sentiments. It's a harrowing universal tale about government and government overreach, and transcends borders given the exact causes and politics associated with the book's uprising aren't given. You really can picture yourself in this novel. [It's] truly transportative!

Gibson's Bookstore

Founded in 1898, Gibson's Bookstore is the oldest continuously operating retailer in the Concord area and the largest independent bookstore in northern New England, according to its website. Current owner Michael Herrmann bought the business in

Gibson's Bookstore

Where: 45 S. Main St. in Concord
When: Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

Upcoming author events:

- Lloyd Sederer, doctor and author of *Caught in the Crosshairs of American Healthcare*, on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.
- Joe McQuaid, author of *War Fronts Home Fires*, on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m.
- Chard deNiord, poet and author of seven books of poetry, presented by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 4:30 p.m.
- Leila Philip, author of *Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America*, on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

1994, expanded the business twice including the move to its current location in 2013 and bought Imagination Village toy store to integrate into the store, which also has a cafe. At this general bookstore with a wide variety of interests, Herrmann said, "our inventory is designed with Concord in mind."

What do people get from shopping at bookstores that they don't get online? What is that experience like and why do you think people seek it?

Bookstores of all kinds are great gathering places. They're community centers, they're places that build community, and you can't really can't replicate that online. There's also one thing you can get at a physical bookstore that you can't get online, [which] is discovery. If you go online looking for something you'll find it but if you don't know what you want or you might be open for new experiences then the only way really to get that is browsing in the real world.

How have local bookstores, and yours specifically, fared with the times and trends of online shopping with sites like Amazon and big bookstores like Barnes & Noble?

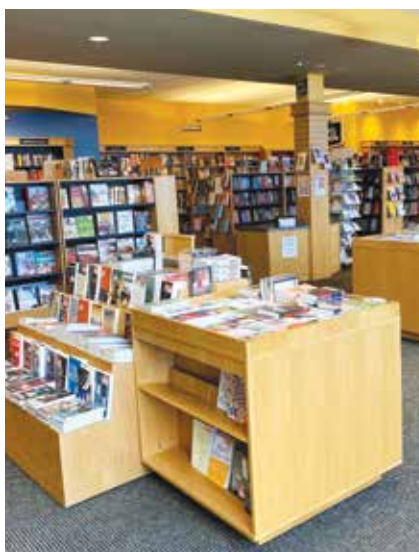
We've always had the larger bookstores to contend with probably since the '80s, and Amazon came along at the end of the '90s, so ... we've been getting used to it for a lot longer than other types of operations have, so the independent bookstores that are still with us are well-equipped to compete with online stores like Amazon.

Have you noticed any other patterns or trends of shopping at local bookstores?

Upcoming releases recommended by Gibson's

The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson (April 30); *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (Feb. 6); *Rainbow Black* by Maggie Thrush (March 19); *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange (Feb. 27); *The Fury* by Alex Michaelides (Jan. 16) —recommended by adult book buyer John LeDonne

The Angel of Indian Lake (The Indian Lake Trilogy #3) by Stephen Graham Jones (March 26); *Funny Story* by Emily Henry (April 23); *Love You, Mean It* by Jilly Gagnon (April 30); *Happy Medium* by Sarah Adler (April 30); *Kosa* by John Durgin (New Hampshire author!) (May 17); *Incidents Around the House* by Josh Malerman (June 25); *American Rapture* by CJ Leede (Oct. 15); *Horror Movie* by Paul Tremblay (June 11); *The Pairing* by Casey McQuiston (Aug. 6) —recommended by bookseller and marketing manager Ryan Clark



Gibson's Bookstore. Photo by Ryan Clark.

Well, certainly our sales are increasing every year and new independent bookstores are starting every year. The channel has been growing since Borders went out of business in 2011. That was sort of like the asteroid getting the dinosaurs and we were the mammals so our channel has been expanding ever since 2011, and Gibson's Bookstore's business has been going up pretty much since 2013.

When genres seem to be attracting the most interest from readers?

Fiction. We've seen a lot of new interest in genres like genre fiction [such as] romance and horror, mystery, science fiction. We've seen a lot of growth in those areas.

Is there any type of book, whether genre or author, that has become popular in the last few years that has surprised you?

There's always room for surprise. You don't want it to be ... formulaic at all, that's why we take a chance on a lot of different ... new authors. Where some of the big box stores have scaled back on, for instance, books for young readers like ages 9 to 12, we continue to bring in a lot of new authors in that area just because some of them are going to be important in the future and we want to build relationships and sales with them as early as possible. And there's always surprises like this holiday season, the big surprise was how well the book by Liz Cheney did [*Oath and Honor*]. We didn't have that on our 2023 bingo card but her book really struck a chord with people and ... you can't predict that in advance. You really don't know, you sort of have to ride the tiger when the tiger gets to you.

What was the most popular book of 2023 and what books are you excited for in 2024?

Ann Patchett's book *Tom Lake* was very popular. We did very well with that. In non-

fiction David Grann's book *The Wager* was extremely popular.

[In 2024] there's a new novel by Chris Bohjalian coming out that he's very excited about launching called *Princess of Las Vegas*, so I'm looking forward to reading that. ... [Also] the new novel by Tana French that's coming out called *The Hunter* and then there's a new book by Tommy Orange, who wrote the novel *There There*, called *Wandering Stars* and ... that's coming in March [and I'm] also really looking forward to that.

What's the best book you've read recently?

The new Tana French [*The Hunter*]. I just finished it.

MainStreet BookEnds of Warner

Despite being rejected by the bank three times, Katharine Nevins, along with her husband, opened the doors to MainStreet BookEnds of Warner in October 1998 during the Warner Fall Foliage Festival. A community bookstore with toys and games set in a Pillsbury colonial homestead, MainStreet BookEnds is a general bookstore with particular strengths in the children's, gardening and farming genres. In the attached barn is a gallery featuring the works of local artists.

"Warner is ... an area where there are a lot of writers, a lot of musicians, [and] a lot of artists, so we've always tried to reflect that," Nevins said.

What do people get from shopping at bookstores that they don't get online? What is that experience like and why do you think people seek it?

Independent bookstores are extraordinarily important ... for ... the culture of the area ... Every single independent bookstore is unique. If you're traveling and you kind

MainStreet BookEnds of Warner

Where: 16 E. Main St. in Warner; 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com
When: Tuesday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

MainStreet Recommends

- Tana French has a new book coming out, *The Hunter* (March 5)
- Sarah Maas's newest will be huge, *House of Flame and Shadow* (Jan. 30)
- A wonderful biography just out on Willa Cather, *Chasing Bright Medusas* (out now)
- Sy Montgomery's latest, *Of Time and Turtles* (out now)
- Richard Scarry's *Cars and Trucks and Things That Go* celebrates 50 years with a new edition (out now)

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of want to get a sense of where you are and who the people are, you track down an independent bookstore because once you get in there you're in with all the locals, you're in there with the things that are happening right there in that community. ... If you can break the habit of the quick click, which is a hard habit to break, ... you can go into the storefront and experience a community of readers who can recommend things to you or recommend things to your children. People who are experienced in books and can really make recommendations ... can make a difference. ... I'm fortunate because I have a front row seat of watching that every day and I see people talking with each other and saying, 'My child had trouble reading and this is what worked for them,' 'My mother just died and I really found this book to be extraordinarily helpful.' ... Things like that happen all the time, so it's really exciting. So you walk into an independent bookstore and you're walking into, I believe, a piece of magic because you're seeing exactly what that area has to offer.

How have local bookstores, and yours specifically, fared with the times and trends of online shopping with sites like Amazon and big bookstores like Barnes & Noble?

In 1998 the bank turned us down three

times. They said there's no way an independent bookstore is going to survive in these times, and Amazon had just started. Amazon has a ridiculous impact on independent bookstores [and] on every single neighborhood store, so the more you extract yourself from that kind of shopping, the more you're supporting your community and the more you're helping your community to thrive and survive ... I think more and more people are getting tired of [the online] experience. I can tell you during Covid where we had to close the store for 15 months we kept going and we did curbside ... and so forth, but that was when people really kind of woke up to how if we don't support these little businesses right now, they're not going to make it, and people came out of the woodwork, it was absolutely fabulous the support that we got. So I think the people ... want to experience ... being able to go into an independent bookstore and ... and just that sense of turning everything off for a half hour, which is really important, and you can't do that in many places but in a bookstore you can get lost in here for a while and that's a very healing thing. Strange to say but there's a lot of healing that goes on in an environment like that [where] people are just allowed to come in and relax and wander and who knows what's going to happen.

Have you noticed any other patterns or trends of shopping at local bookstores?

We're really having a return of younger people coming in and just really loving the experience of wandering and talking about books and holding books. ... The feelings ... that you get when you pick up a book that you read ... all those feelings come rushing back to you as to where you were at the time, and you can only get that with a physical book, that's the only way you can get that.

More book shops

Here are some additional independent bookstores in the area.

The Lost Page Found Bookshop

Where: 35 Main St. in Goffstown; 384-1390, thelostpagefoundbookshop.com

Hours: See Facebook for winter hours. Posted hours on are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Morgan Hill Bookstore

Where: 253 Main St., New London; 526-5850, morganhillbookstore.com

When: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

RiverRun Bookstore

Where: 32 Daniel St. in Portsmouth; 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com

Hours: Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Toadstool Bookshop

Where: 12 Depot St. in Peterborough, 924-3543; toadbooks.com

When: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Water Street Bookstore

Where: 125 Water St., Exeter; 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com

When: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Book Clubs

Gibson's Bookstore

45 S. Main St., Concord
gibsonsbookstore.com/gibsons-book-club

When: first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Next up: Feb. 5: *The Vanishing Half*, by Brit Bennett

Bookery

bookerymht.com/our-events

844 Elm St., Manchester

Book club

When: third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Next up: Jan 18: *Happy-Go-Lucky*, by David Sedaris

Romance book club

When: last Sunday of each month at 6 p.m.

Next up: Jan. 28: *By the Book*, by Jasmine Guillory



MainStreet BookEnds. Courtesy photo.

When genres seem to be attracting the most interest from readers?

We follow the New England Independent Booksellers Association bestsellers list. ... We all contribute to what sells the best in our stores and that's the list that we go by in terms of our bestsellers. ... There's a whole lot of interest in young adult and in graphic novels for young adults. ... We have a ... section on regional titles in terms of New Hampshire and hiking [that's] just about sold out That's [a] huge area. People [want] to pick up books about the area and about hiking and enjoying the outdoors ... and children's books are always very, very big.

Is there any type of book, whether genre or author, that has become popular in the last few years that has surprised you?

I think that the popularity is reflected by the times, right? ... Right now people are wanting more and more escape and comfort ... so when a particular author becomes really popular that surprises us it's probably because that particular author is providing a really good escape for right now. ... You [also] read to learn about other worlds so I think if we've had some surprising authors

emerge in the last couple of years it's just been reflective of what we need as a society to cope.

What was the most popular book of 2023 and what books are you excited for in 2024?

Well, books like *Demon Copperhead*, Barabra Kingsolver's book, that was huge; *Iron Flame* [by Rebecca Yarros and] *A Court of Thorns and Roses* [by Sarah J. Maas]. ... [For] what's coming up, well, I guess we just wait and see what's going to emerge next — it's always kind of a surprise ... and I know people are excited about some new ones coming out there so I think we just wait and see.

What's the best book you've read recently?

In terms of my favorite reads from 2023, the fiction would be the latest from Sigrid Nunez, *The Vulnerables*. The nonfiction is *The Long Field* by Pamela Petro. Children's picture books would be *Thank a Farmer* by Maria Gianferrari, and middle-grade novels would be the latest from Ann Braden, *Opinions and Opossums*. 🍄

Peterborough NH Area Silent Book Club

Find them on Facebook

When: The newly formed chapter was scheduled to have its first-ever meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at DiVine on Main (32 Main St., Peterborough); a second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m.

Next up: whatever you want

"Silent Book Club is a global community of readers and introverts reading together in quiet camaraderie. ... At Silent Book Club, there's no assigned reading. Instead, we're inviting readers to grab a glass of wine, a tasty snack, a cozy seat, and a book of their choosing to read uninterrupted for one hour, with added time for socializing and discussing your book while making new friends," according to the Peterborough chapter's post on silentbook.club.

MainStreet BookEnds

16 E. Main St., Warner
Mainstreetbookends.com

When: Sundays at 4 p.m.

Next up: Feb. 4: *How the Post Office Created America*, by Winifred Gallagher

To Share Brewing

720 Union St., Manchester

When: second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m.

RSVP to info@tosharebrewing.com to attend

Next up: Feb. 8: *Love in the Time of Serial Killers*, by Alicia Thompson

Northwoods Brewing

1334 First NH Tpke., Northwood

When: Books and Brews meets on various Mondays

Next up: Jan. 29: *Shark Heart: A Love Story*, by Emily Habeck

ARTS

Lights, camera, action

New Hampshire Theatre Awards return to the scene

By Mya Blanchard
arts@hippopress.com

Returning after a Covid-induced hiatus are the New Hampshire Theatre Awards on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord. Professional, community and youth theater productions from the 2023 season will be awarded and parts of some of the shows will be performed.

“[New Hampshire Theatre Alliance] runs an adjudication process,” said Irene Cohen, the president of the organization and co-producer of the award show. “A theater company ... will submit their works to be adjudicated ... and [the adjudicators] complete a bal-

lot and the ballot is scored. ... Then we have an awards night for outstanding performance, very similar to the Tonys. ... There was a group who spent time during the pandemic, about a year and a half, working on an entirely new ballot, so we’re excited about that.”

Adjudicated productions include *Guys and Dolls* by Weathervane Theatre, *Agatha Christie’s Murder On The Orient Express* by M&D Playhouse, *Steel Magnolias* by Carriage Lane Players, *Disney’s Newsies* at Ovation Theatre Company and *Mean Girls: High School Version*, also produced by Ovation Theatre Company. Awards will be given for outstanding actors and actresses in musical and play productions, outstanding supporting actors and actresses, choreography, lighting, sound design, costume design and outstanding professional, community and youth productions, among others. New this year is an award for playwriting.

“The theater community in New



Previous New Hampshire Theatre Awards. Courtesy photos.



Hampshire is very vibrant and prolific. ... Almost every weekend of the year you can find some type of community, professional or youth theater production,” Cohen said. “One thing that we’re excited about is that we’ve made a change in the awards to a non-gendered award name starting in the 2024 adjudication season and that decision came about with some feedback from our community. ... it’s been very very well-received.”

According to Cohen, this change will set the New Hampshire Theatre Alliance apart from other theater organizations.

After the ballots are run, the top 10

finalists will be announced. Then, during the event, the semifinalists will be revealed, followed by the winner.

“The process and the organization ... is all run by volunteers,” Cohen. “We don’t have a paid executive director, we don’t have paid staff. The adjudicators are going all over the state to adjudicate these shows and we wind up with this event at the end of all that based entirely on the volunteered time of this community. ... I’m just in awe of the power and strength of this community of artists in New Hampshire. 🌱

19th New Hampshire Theatre Awards

Where: Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord

When: Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m.

More info: get tickets at ccanh.com



ART & BLOOM

The Concord Garden Club and local artists present “Art & Bloom,” the annual show featuring floral arrangements paired with works by local artists, on display Thursday, Jan. 25, through Saturday, Jan. 27, at Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 N. Main St. in Concord). The show comes together with club members, local florists and others picking a piece from a Kimball Jenkins exhibit and then crafting arrangements inspired by that piece, according to concordgardenclubnh.com/art-and-bloom, where you can see a gallery of past arrangements with the works that inspired them. The show

will be on display Thursday, Jan. 25, from 2 to 5 p.m., with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Art

Opening

• **“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, will open Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn). The exhibit will be on display through Saturday, March 30, with an opening reception Saturday, Jan. 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Events

• **MUSIC NIGHT** is scheduled

for Saturday, Jan. 20, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) and will feature Abner II (take a listen at instagram.com/Abner_ii) and Regals (hear them at regalsrock.bandcamp.com), according to a press release.

Exhibits

• **“THIS IS US PLUS SOME”** at the Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) runs through Monday, Jan. 29. 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. Mosaic is open Wednesdays through Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

• **“CELEBRATING THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE”** at 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 Dub-

CONTINUED ON PG 17 ▶

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ARTS

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **OG Oscar winner:** Here in the thick of the Oscar season for 2023 movies, check out one of the winners of the first Oscars. Emil Jannings, the first winner of a Best Actor Oscar, stars in the movie that got him the statue, *The Last Command* (1928), which will screen on Sunday, Jan. 21, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre (40 Main St. in Wilton), according to a press release. This silent film will screen with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis. Admission is free with a suggested \$10 donation.

• **Exhibit layover:** The "Flying Home for the Holidays" exhibit at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviationmuseumofnh.org, 669-4820) will extend its run through Sunday, Feb. 4. The exhibit features World War II-era uniforms and large-format posters, according to a press release. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$10 for ages 13+ and \$5 for ages 6 to 12 and is free for kids 5 and under, 65+ and veterans and military.

The museum will also host Ken Perkins, a New Hampshire pilot who helped bring Charles Lindbergh to Hawaii in 1974 before his death, for a program called "Lindbergh's Last Flight" on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m.

• **Closing the book:** Portsmouth Book & Bar (40 Pleasant St. in Portsmouth), a venue for food, drink, music, art and poetry as well as a book shop, has announced that it is closing its doors on Sunday, Jan. 28. See bookandbar.com for a schedule of events up until that final day, including Beat Night on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.; a musical performance by Tourist Attraction on Friday, Jan. 19, at 8 p.m.; Taylor Marie Band with Andrew Kavanaugh on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 8 p.m.; The Lion Sisters with Jim Prendergast on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m.; singer-songwriter open mic night on Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m., and Standup Night hosted by Jake Valeri on Friday, Jan. 26, at 8 p.m. A "Hello, Good-Bye: Send-off and Celebration Weekend" is planned for Saturday, Jan. 27, and Sunday, Jan. 28. Some events are ticketed; see the website.

• **Call for art:** The Meredith Sculpture Walk is accepting applications to take part in the lakefront Meredith Sculpture Walk exhibit, a juried event with installation slated for mid-May through mid-June, according to a press release. The application period is



An original poster featuring Emil Jannings for the silent movie *The Last Command*. Courtesy photo.

open through March 31, with notifications to go out by April 30. Applications are open to new and returning artists with new pieces for up to two sculptures per applicant, the release said. See greatermeredith.org.

• **Support for teen artists:** Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; mosaicartcollective.com, 512-6309) has started an open studio for students from Manchester's public high schools, according to a press release. The students have studio time, work on creative exercises and work together with mentor artists and will have an exhibition to spotlight their work at the end of the semester, the release said. Spaces are still available; contact openstudioh@gmail.com.

• **Commedia dell'arte:** The Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; playersring.org) will present an original commedia dell'arte, *I See No Arlecchino*, running Friday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Feb. 11. Showtimes will be Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:20 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. According to a press release: "Jessica Miller, a cast member ..., described commedia as a 'highly physical slapstick comedy with a cast of stock characters ... lovers, the old miser, etc.'" "I like to think of it as a live-action cartoon with a very thin, if at all existent, fourth wall," Miller said according to the release. "It's pure, raucous comedy." Admission costs \$28, \$25 for students and 65+.

• **New show:** Works by painter Sharyn Paul will be on display in the exhibit "We Are Water" through February at The Art Center (1 Washington St. in Dover; theartcenteronlinegallery.com). For a look at Paul's work, see sharynpaul.com. She will attend the Meet the Artist event on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Recycled returns:** If you missed Recycled Percussion during their Palace Theatre run over the holidays, you can catch up



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ARTS

with them in early February at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashuacenterforthearts.com). The band will bring their blend of music, comedy and percussive theatricality to Nashua on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 3 and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 4, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$39.50 through \$49.50.

- **Like *Maestro* but live:** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra will perform Mahler's Resurrection Symphony (as seen in the movie *Maestro*) with the Plymouth State University and Keene State College Choral groups at performances in February — on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Plymouth State University Silver Center and two at the Seifert Performing Arts Center in Salem. The Salem performances will be Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. (with a livestreaming ticket option for the Sunday concert). For tickets (which cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$10 for students to the Salem shows) see nhphil.org.

- **40 years of fun:** The Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org) continues its "40 Years of Play" exhibit through Thursday, Feb. 29, in Gallery 6. The exhibition includes artwork, puppets and other items that look back at the museum's 40 years, including photographs, according to a press release. The museum and gallery



I See No Arlecchino. Courtesy photo.

are open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to noon. You don't have to pay admission to visit the gallery; to visit the museum as well, reserve a play slot online. Admission costs \$12.50 for everyone over 12 months, \$10.50 for 65+.

- **Art, music, winter:** Winterfest Lowell will take place Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, in downtown Lowell, Mass., and feature ice carvings, fire sculptures, live music, magic, family activities, an art tent and a local vendors marketplace as well as food trucks, a chocolate festival on Saturday and a soup bowl competition (also Saturday). See lowellwinterfest.com. 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 15

lin 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.

- **"NATURE IN FOCUS: IMAGES OF FLORA, FAUNA AND LANDSCAPES OF NEW ENGLAND"** will be on display at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; nhandubon.org) Friday, March 8. 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.

and performed by Gemma Soldati, will run at the Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; 436-8123, playersring.org) 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. Tickets cost \$28, \$25 for 65+ and students.

- **IN THE GARDEN OF Z** at the New Hampshire Theatre Project (959 Islington St. in Portsmouth, nhtheatreproject.org, 431-6644) 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. Tickets cost \$28 to \$32.

- **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.

- **QUEEN VICTORIA** The Center for the Arts (centerfortheartsnh.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 Mummey portrays the queen for the program. Tickets cost \$23 per person (\$5 for students). Make reservations at info@cfanh.org and purchase tickets at centerfortheartsnh.org, the release said.

- **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.

Classical

- **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.

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SATURDAY 20
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FRI 26 Ricky Nelson Remembered 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 6 & 8:30PM
FRI 9 Comedy at the Rex with Al Park and special guest 7:30PM
SAT 10 Mardi Gras in Manchester with Soggy Po' Boys 7:30PM
WED 14 Silent Film with Live Music: SPEEDY 7:00PM
THUR 15 14th Annual New England Winter Blues Festival: A Gulf Coast Records Review 7:30PM
FRI 16 A Valentine Dueling Planos: Live at the Rex 7:30PM
SAT 17 A Musical Cooking Lesson with The Calamari Sisters 2 & 7:30PM
FRI 23 An Evening with Singer Songwriter Vance Gilbert 7:30PM
SAT 24 The Dave Matthews Tribute Band 7:30PM

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

A year in the garden

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippypress.com

— THE GARDENING GUY —

As we begin 2024 I think it is good not only to look back but also to plan ahead. We can't know if we'll be facing hot and dry or wet and soggy this summer, or perfect conditions. But we can make plans and hope for the best.

For many of us 2023 was a disappointment. The summer was rainy much of the time. Vegetables like tomatoes and potatoes — vegetables that require lots of energy to build fruit or tubers — did not do well. Fungal diseases like late blight are most virulent with moist conditions, which we had in spades. And in my part of the world there was a late frost that spoiled the blossoms on our fruit trees — so no apples or pears. Sigh.

On the other hand, it was a great summer for newly planted trees and shrubs. I planted yet another pawpaw tree this summer, along with a fringe tree, an American hazelnut and a gooseberry. The soil stayed moist all summer from the rain, and all have done well.

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a native fruit tree that is common in the woods of Pennsylvania and Ohio. The fruit is almost tropical in flavor, sometimes compared to a mix of mango and banana flavors. The trees are rated hardy to Zone 5 (minus 20 degrees F), but I have had one survive much colder temperatures — and another that died in a cold winter.

I have one pawpaw tree that is now 20 feet tall and 10 years old or more, but I am yet to get any fruit from it, despite the fact that it has blossomed. Apparently they are self-sterile, so in the past three years I have been planting new trees from different sources. Pawpaws send up root suckers, but these are genetic clones and not suitable for pollinating the mother tree.

A few thoughts about planting trees: First, preferentially choose trees and shrubs that are native to New England — or the United States. These are best for our birds and pollinators. And no, that doesn't mean you should deprive yourself of the beauty of a Merrill or Jane magnolia. I just want to suggest a 90:10 or 80:20 ratio of natives to imported or hybridized varieties.

Secondly, if you plant trees in spring or

summer, you must water during dry times. Fall is usually wet enough. A newly planted tree needs 5 gallons of water once a week distributed in a wide circle around it. A 2-inch layer of mulch will help minimize drying on hot August days and keep the mowers and string trimmers at bay. Mulch will also minimize weeds that compete for nutrients and water.

Some gardeners focus on growing vegetables, others on flowers. I want both. I started as a vegetable gardener, largely because there is little better in life than biting into a home-grown tomato warm from the sun. I grow heirloom tomatoes like Brandywine, Cherokee Purple and Ox Heart, but I also plant hybrids like Sungold, my favorite cherry tomato, and Defiant, which is resistant to some diseases.

If you grow open pollinated (heirloom) tomatoes, you can save a few seeds each year and dry them on a paper towel. Store them in a cool dark location and they will serve you well if you want to start your own seedlings, starting indoors in early April. But don't save hybrid seeds, as most will not breed true.

One of my readers wrote me this fall



Gompfrena, an annual, is great in arrangements. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

reminding me of something I wrote long ago: "I will make it through another winter because I want to see what else did." It's true. I can't let age catch up with me because I want to see the annual show: snowdrops blooming in March; my Merrill magnolia, which blooms each year with 1,000 double white blossoms on my birthday in April; and the Japanese primroses — 500 to 1,000 of them beginning in May and lasting until mid-June.

My advice about planting flowers is simple: Grow what you love. Grow what your Grammie and mother grew. Grow what stops you in your tracks when you see it for the first time each season. Plant more of your favorites each year, or divide them and spread them out to new corners of the property. But keep it simple: Don't plant so much that weeding becomes a dreaded chore.

CONTINUED ON PG 21 ▶

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Am I getting all the premium fuel I paid for?



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk:
I just purchased a 2024 car that uses premium fuel. Most gas pumps have a single hose for regular and premium fuels. The hose is usually about 8 feet long.

If I buy premium, and the person before me filled up with regular; how much regular fuel am I paying the premium price for? And how much of my premium fuel is the guy after me getting? — Arthur

About a third of a gallon, Arthur. Most gas pumps work by blending octanes right at the pump. Instead of having three to five underground tanks of fuel, a gas station would, for instance, have one big tank of 87 and one big tank of 93 and would blend them at the pump, on demand, to make everything in between.

Gasoline gets pumped out of the underground tanks and pushed, under pressure, to the gas pump, where it's blended into whatever octane you select. That blend is then pushed through the fuel hose and the filler nozzle and into your car.

When you release the handle on the nozzle,

or when the nozzle clicks off automatically when your tank is full, the fuel is shut off at the nozzle. The hose remains full of fuel.

So, if the person before you used 87 octane, the first third of a gallon you'd get would be 87 octane, Arthur.

In a tank-full of 12 or 14 gallons, that makes no difference to the car. For example, if you have a 12-gallon tank, and the first third of a gallon is 87 and the rest is 93, your overall octane would still be something like 92.83.

And if the person after you chose 87, they'd get a third of a gallon of 93 and end up with an overall octane a smidge higher than 87, which wouldn't matter to their car either.

The department of weights and measures approved this method several decades ago, after concluding that it had no meaningful impact on cars or drivers. Although I understand how it can frost your shorts, Arthur.

The people who have to be careful, though, are motorcyclists. When you have a 3-gallon fuel tank, a third of a gallon can make a meaningful difference in overall octane. And not all motorcycles have the ability to adjust for varying octanes the way modern cars do.

So motorcyclists may have to hover around the pumps, like waiting for a table to

free up at Starbucks, and pounce as soon as an Audi pulls away.

Dear Car Talk:
I recently discovered that the lens is missing on the center brake light on my wife's 2016 Lincoln MKX.

The dealership (where we bought the vehicle) quoted more than \$650 to replace the whole unit. Apparently, you can't replace just the red, plastic lens. The service tech confided in me that they had replaced the center brake light on three such vehicles recently, and that they were all lost in car washes.

I am a do-it-yourself kind of guy and found a third brake light unit online for \$160. Do you think this is the type of project an average Joe can handle, or should I cough up the money to the experts?

It just grates me that something as simple as a brake light lens is so complicated and expensive to replace. Thanks in advance for any guidance and assistance you can offer. — Jerry

Can an average Joe handle this? Well, an average Joe with lots of patience and no young kids nearby to hear him cursing.

I'll be honest with you, Jerry. It's a pain-in-the-butt job. It's not a good design, in

terms of repairability. You have to remove the car's upper rear spoiler. Lincoln decided to attach the rear spoiler with a bunch of plastic push-pin locking fasteners that are almost impossible to get at and remove. It can be done, but it's slow and frustrating.

So maybe you could just go through a more powerful car wash and see if it'll rip the whole spoiler off? It could take you hours to remove. I'd suggest going on YouTube and watching a video or two of it being done. You may pick up some time-saving tips. Or you may run to your dealer and fling \$650 at him. Once you get that spoiler off, it's actually an easy do-it-yourself job. And getting the spoiler back on is a lot easier than taking it off.

One other option is to stop by a body shop and ask them what they'd charge to do the job for you. They do this kind of work all the time when doing post-collision repairs. Maybe they'll be cheaper.

Whoever does it, have them make sure the edges of the lens are flush with its housing. If the lens is mis-manufactured, or sloppily manufactured, it can leave a lip, which should be sanded or ground down. Otherwise, the new one will be vulnerable to being torn off in the car wash, too.

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to eat healthier

my alphabet

LOCATIONS: Manchester • Goffstown • Concord • Rochester • Portsmouth

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Movie afternoon

• See *Happy Feet* (PG, 2006) on Friday, Jan. 19, at 3:45 p.m. at all three area Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com). Purchase \$5 food vouchers to reserve a seat.

Game night

• Cheer on the **Saint Anselm Hawks** basketball teams on Saturday, Jan. 20, at Stoutenburgh Gymnasium (73 College Road on Saint Anselm College campus in Manchester). The women's team takes the court at 1:30 p.m. and the men's team plays at 3:30 p.m. — both teams face off against teams from American International College. Tickets to either game cost \$10 (kids 5 and under get in free to regular season games) and are available for purchase starting one hour ahead of game time at the Gymnasium

ticket booth. See saintanselmhawks.com.

• **Southern New Hampshire University Penmen** basketball teams will face the Saint Anselm Hawks in games Wednesday, Jan. 24, when the women's team plays at 5:30 p.m., followed by the men's team at 7:30 p.m. The games take place at Stan Spiro Field House (Southern New Hampshire University campus, 2500 River Road in Manchester); regular season games are free to attend. See snhupenmen.com.

Art class

• The **winter session of classes** starts this week at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) with adult classes (in person and online) and classes for teens and kids. A series of "art after school" classes was slated to begin Wednesday, Jan. 17, and run for five weeks. On Saturday, Jan. 20, art classes for ages 5 through teen begin, including Art Explorers at 10 a.m. (ages 5 to 7); Pencil, Pen & Marker at 10 a.m. (ages 8 to 10); Drawing Adventures at noon (ages 10 to 12); Character Design for Storytelling at noon (teens), and Narrative Collage & Printmaking (teens) at noon, according to a press release. Go online for price and availability. On Thursday, Jan. 18, at 10:30 a.m. a "Homeschool Art Studio" session begins.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
Can you help figure out what this register is from? It says W.C.F.I. on the side. Inside it's all empty pages, lined. It's 17" x 12" and extremely heavy. Any information would be appreciated.
Alex



light and thin as well. So many of them out there. Interesting to read some of the contents. Also great coffee table books! The value on one the size of yours would be in the \$100 range in good condition. Fun piece, Alex, and thanks for sharing it with us.

Dear Alex,
Your heavy register book is from the early 1900's. WCFI stands for the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance Co. in New York City. Antique leather-bound registers aren't hard to find, as so many were used. To find them empty and with paper still intact is harder. Yours, Alex, is a larger one but many are

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.

CONTINUED FROM PG 21

I love arranging flowers and keep a vase of my own cut flowers on the table from March until after Halloween. You can do this if you plant lots of bulbs for early spring, your favorite perennials, and very importantly, this: plant annual flowers. Annual flowers keep on blooming all summer if you keep them from going to seed.

It's easy to buy six-packs of annuals in spring and plant them in your perennial beds as well as in your vegetable garden. Most like full sun or part sun/part shade. And don't fertilize annuals in the garden — too much nitrogen promotes leafy growth

but delays flowering. Potted annuals do need some fertilizer as the fertilizer in potting mix is water-soluble and gets used up or washes away.

Remember, as you ponder your plans for a garden while looking at a snowy landscape, that gardening should be fun. My garden is my respire. It's where I go when the world is too much with me. So do some planning now. And dream.

Henry's column will appear about once a month this winter. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746.

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ON THE JOB

ANDREW WILLIAMSON AND LARRY WILLIAMSON ROOFING AND GUTTER SPECIALISTS

Andrew Williamson and Larry Williamson own North East Roof Tune-Ups, a roof and gutter maintenance company out of Manchester.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails. 2016 to 2020.

We specialize in roof repair and maintenance and all aspects of gutters. We both clean and install custom gutters, downspouts and gutter covers designed for our New England weather.

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

Our journey began under our father's business, Premier Gutter Systems, from 2009 to 2014. ...We started out cleaning gutters. We added the gutter machine and started doing gutter installations shortly after. Later we added the roof tune-up package. In the last two years we added services for property managers and Realtors. We

also offer 7-inch gutters for commercial buildings.

What kind of education or training did you need?

We mainly learned on the job from our father teaching us side by side. We are constantly learning new things from trade groups and forums.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?

Our uniform features the company's logo, trade and contact information, and proper footwear.

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

Constantly improving our craft and knowledge to serve our local community effectively. Handling fall rushes by conducting our time wisely and striving for quality and professional service. I would say 'the cold' but, hey, this is New England.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?

It's not easy but we love it. Our work is essential in preventing potential damage to



Andrew Williamson and Larry Williamson. Courtesy photo.

your home.

What was the first job you ever had?

Andrew worked for Premier Gutter Systems, and Larry was a grill cook at Wendy's.

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

You have to enjoy what you do for work. —Angie Sykeny 🍌

Five favorites

Favorite book: *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. This book is a great blueprint of how to live your life.

Favorite movie: We don't have much time for movies. I guess movies with the kiddos on the weekend.

Favorite music: We like all kinds of music. We really enjoy checking out local bands.

Favorite food: We are on the road a lot. We have favorite small diners in every town. Then, of course, pizza.

Favorite thing about NH: Its scenic wonders. An hour or so one way gets you to our gorgeous lakes and mountains while the other direction gets you to gorgeous beaches on the ocean.



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FOOD

Just like mom used to make

Manchester native opens homestead business to honor her mother and yia yia

News from the local food scene

By Mya Blanchard
mblanchard@hippopress.com

- **See vineyard, taste wine:** Experience the Fire Tower Winter Wonderland Wine Tasting Experience at Averill House Vineyard (21 Averill Road in Brookline; averillhousevineyard.com) at various times on Fridays through Sunday in January through March. With a view of the vineyard, enjoy a private outdoor tasting of four wines around outdoor pellet stoves. Each ticket (\$59) accounts for two adults and each additional person will cost \$15 for a maximum of eight people. Children under 13 are free and pets are welcome if on a leash. Get your tickets at eventbrite.com.

- **Wine in an igloo:** Enjoy a charcuterie board with meat, nuts, cheese and crackers and taste four wines in a private Norwegian-themed igloo or gazebo Averill House Vineyard (21 Averill Road in Brookline; averillhousevineyard.com) with theme lighting and music. Gazebos also include a fireplace and fluffy living room. Dates are available in January through March, on Fridays through Sundays as well as Wednesday, Feb. 14. Tickets (\$100) account for two people and can be purchased via eventbrite.com.

- **Drinks for a cause:** On Saturday, Jan. 20, To Share Brewing Co., New Hampshire Brewers Association and Old Dogs Go To Helen host Pints and Flights for Old Dogs Go To Helen. One dollar from every pint or flight sold will be donated to ODGTH, a senior and hospice dog rescue and sanctuary.

- **Cupcake decorating for kids:** Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road, Concord) hosts a kids' winter cupcake decorating class on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from 4 to 9 p.m. Call to make your reservation. 26 ▶



Barbara George with a few of the featured items she sells. Courtesy photo.

By Mya Blanchard
food@hippopress.com

On Nov. 11, 2023, Barbara George made her business debut at the Manchester Memorial Craft Fair with Auntie B's Greek Pastries, a homestead baking company through which she bakes pastries from her mother and yia yia's (grandmother's) recipes.

"I watched my mom bake for so many years and kept notes to keep the recipes alive, as she never used recipes — the recipes were all in her head," George said in an email. "I would ask her to make one of her specialties, and once she was ready to add the ingredients I would measure them out and that's how I captured her recipe. As she gave me tips along the way as we baked together, I would write [them]

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Twist Cookies otherwise known in Greek as Koulourakia. Courtesy photo.

down. They come in so handy to this day where I'm not able to ask her."

Having grown up in the Manchester area, George attended Plymouth State University before starting a 38-year career in sales, with baking remaining a hobby. She spent 22 of those years in California, where she would bake for friends, before moving back to the Granite State. Back home after the passing of her mother, friends would request she bake her mother's recipes for family events, and she started to imagine turning it into a business.

"It was Covid year and I followed a lot of people on Instagram [who] baked or opened up their own baking businesses," George said. "It's been over a couple years that has gotten me to this point and I just thought where people are enjoying them that I would ... try my hand at [home baking]."

After seeing a post about the Manchester Memorial Craft Fair, she reached out to become a vendor where her baking would officially become a business and she

would sell out of everything she brought.

"Something I learned was that a lot of people don't know Greek pastries and it was fun telling people about it." George said. "I was just used to the Greek festivals ... I happen to be the parish president at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church ... [and] I also volunteer at St. George for their Glendi ... so it's been fun telling people and sampling with them and seeing their reactions to foods they [have] never tried before."

Out of her home, George makes Flo Flo's nut rolls, her mother's variation on baklava, koulourakia, which are Greek twist cookies, and custom orders that people request.

"I always hoped that I could get my mom's and yia yia's recipes out to more people and that seems to be happening," George said. "I just always get excited that people want to try my products and they want to buy my products. I think that's fantastic and I'm always appreciative of that." 🍷



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WITH LIOR SADEH



Lior Sadeh. Courtesy photo.

Clinical herbalist Lior Sadeh has been growing herbs and making products for 12 years. Having closed the physical location of Bee Fields Farm, Sadeh works with people to reduce inflammation and heal their gut by making lifestyle changes, with herbs and supplements and bone broth, by reducing stress and making detox part of their everyday lifestyle. Her products include herbal tea blends, herbal infused honey, oils, salves, creams, extracts, elixirs and more. You can find her at the Concord Winter Farmers Market.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I think a good knife and a cutting board are a must. ... I love my slow cooker ... I do bone broth in it so whenever I am eating meat I collect the bones and cook them for a couple of days with a little bit of vinegar to make bone broth and then I use it in all my cooking and it's very healing for the digestive tract and it's also filled with minerals.

What would you have for your last meal?

I love salmon.

What is your favorite local eatery?

Riverside Cafe in Milford.

Name a celebrity you would like to see trying something you made.

For me celebrities are farmers ... farming is hard work that is not rewarded ... farmers should be celebrities because in all kinds of weather farmers get up and go out and take care of the animals and the plants so we all do have food, so my celebrities are farmers and I would love it if farmers would drink my tea.

What is your favorite product that

you make?

I love the teas because I think if a person takes the time to make themselves a cup of tea and sits down ... and relaxes with it and really kind of all body experience, they start a good chance to follow ... any herbal program and succeed in getting what they want from it. ... I don't believe in quick fixes, and there are a lot of herbal medicines like tincture that you can squirt ... and then rush off to the next thing that you do, and I think that tea forces us to sit down ... [and] forces you to breathe. ... When you drink a cup of tea and you sit down with it you have this moment of breathing and letting go and just checking with yourself how it feels to be in your body.

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

I don't know ... I'm not a trendy person.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I'm very seasonal. I really love soups in the winter, and in the summer I love salads, especially Israeli salad with a lot of cucumbers and tomatoes when they are in season. 🍅

Immune Supporting Bone Broth
from the kitchen of Lior Sadeh

- Bones collected from chicken, lamb or beef organically raised or 100 percent grass-fed
- 4 quarts water
- 2 Tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 handful dried burdock root
- 1 handful dried astragalus root
- 1 handful dried reishi mushroom

I start my bone broth after eating a whole chicken. I collect the bones and place them in a slow cooker.

Cover with water. You want to use clean, not fluoridated water.

Add the apple cider vinegar.

Bring to a boil, reduce heat and let simmer for a couple of days.

Check a couple of times a day to make sure you have enough water in the pot. If needed, add water.

You can always add other bones. My bone broth simmers for close to a week and I add bones to it as the week goes.

Twelve hours before you are ready to strain broth, add the herbs.

Strain, pour into a mason jar, cool and refrigerate.

You can drink a cup of warm broth daily or use it in cooking soups, stews and grains.



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FOOD



JOHN FLADD COOKS

Royal Pretender Cake

This is not an authentic Mardi Gras King Cake. An actual New Orleanian would sneer at this hard enough to sprain her lip. But a real King Cake is actually a member of the bread family and takes about five hours to make. This is a delicious, dense, moist almond cake that will serve you in good stead.

Cake

- 2½ cups (300 grams) all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ teaspoon baking powder
- ¾ cup (162 grams) whole milk
- ½ cup (120 grams) sour cream
- 2¼ cups (450 grams) sugar
- 7 ounces (1 tube) almond paste – you can find this in the baking/spices section of your supermarket
- 2 teaspoons orange zest – the zest of one large orange
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 4 eggs
- 3 Tablespoon (45 grams) amaretto
- ¼ teaspoon almond extract

Glaze

- 2 cups (227 grams) powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- pinch salt
- 2 to 3 Tablespoons milk – enough to make a spoonable glaze

Garnish

Gold, purple, and green sprinkles or sanding sugar – you can find these online or at a craft store

A small plastic baby that you will bake into the cake for luck. You might or might not actually have a small plastic baby to hand. If you do not, you can substitute some other small non-poisonous object in its place, such as a foreign coin, a marble, or one of those small ceramic figures that are sometimes included in boxes of tea.

Bring all the cake ingredients to room temperature. This recipe will work if the cream cheese and almond paste are cold, but they will be temperamental and will require some persuasion to blend together gracefully.

Preheat your oven to 350°F. Prepare a large Bundt pan — I brush the inside with a mixture of equal parts shortening, vegetable oil and flour.

In a medium bowl, combine the dry ingredients — the flour, salt and baking powder. Set aside.

In a jar or measuring cup, combine the milk and sour cream. Set aside.

In a stand mixer, or using a hand-held electric mixer, combine the almond paste — cut into small pieces — and the sugar. Mix at slow speed; the mixture looks like damp sand. If you do not cut the almond paste into small pieces, it will fight against its fate and throw plumes of sugar out of your mixing bowl in protest. If this starts happening, cover the bowl with a tea towel and be careful that it doesn't get sucked up into the beaters.

Add the orange zest and cream cheese. Mix to combine. Again, this will go more smoothly if the cream cheese is at room temperature.

Mix in the eggs, one at a time, then add the amaretto and almond extract. Scrape down the sides of the bowl if you need to. Once everything is thoroughly mixed, beat at a higher speed, until the proto-batter is a little fluffy.

Add the dry ingredients and the milk/sour cream mixture a little at a time, alternating between the two, until the batter is smooth and battery.

Pour half the batter into the prepared Bundt pan, which has been patiently waiting for you.

Drop your small plastic baby into the Bundt pan. “Godspeed, my friend,” would be a good sentiment to express at this point.



Not King cake. Photo by John Fladd.

Extra points if you say it in French.

Pour the rest of the batter into the pan, covering your Cake Baby.

Bake for 50 to 60 minutes, until a toothpick comes out clean or it reaches an internal temperature of 200°F.

Cool on a rack for 20 minutes before inverting onto a plate. Let it cool thoroughly before glazing and decorating it. Decorate a third of the cake in each of the colors of sugar or sprinkles. This is not a time to exercise restraint. “Garish” should be the absolute minimum level of decoration you are looking for.

This is a first-class snack cake. It is meant to be shared. A traditional King Cake is supposed to be eaten with friends. Whoever finds the baby in their slice is supposed to host the Mardi Gras party the following year. You should feel free to set the stakes to work with your particular group of friends, relatives, or co-workers.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!
John Fladd is a veteran Hippo writer, a father, writer and cocktail enthusiast, living in New Hampshire.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 24

- **Wines of Italy:** Wine expert Anne Arnold will lead you through The Wonderful Wines of Italy hosted by From the Vine to Wine at Stroll Café & Wine Bar (15 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth) on Thursday, Feb. 1, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$50 to \$65 on eventbrite.
- **Farm-to-table tasting:** Restoration
- **Chocolate, wine, dinner:** The 17th

annual Chocolate Madness Wine Pairing Dinner at Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown) 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.

on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at Black Swan Inn (354 W. Main St., Tilton) 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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Friko, *Where We've Been, Where We Go From Here* (ATO Records)



A hard one to classify, this Chicago indie band's first album for ATO Records, although it was finished before they signed with the company. Vocalist/guitarist Niko Kapetan's voice is awkward, shaking like a vintage glass tray on the mantel during an earthquake near your grandmother's house, which makes this whole thing an acquired taste from the beginning, but these guys do come up with some interesting song structures. For instance, there's "Where We've Been," which starts out as a '70s beach-time radio-pop thing, then begins to pulsate and crumble in waves of noise, then reassembles itself and ends in

unplugged Bonnaroo folk. Kapetan's Conor Oberst side comes out for "Crimson to Chrome," a mid-tempo semi-rocker that flirts with no-wave (or post-punk, depending on your point of reference) relevance (nice loud guitar sound at the break, me likey). "Chemical" is pure shoegaze, and when you take it all together you realize the band is a coherent Brian Jonestown Massacre. Worth your time, absolutely. **A** —Eric W. Saeger

Nicky, *by* (PRAH Recordings)



Point of order, the Nicky Harris under scrutiny here is a composer, pianist and singer inspired by London's queer performance scene, not the South Carolina dude who's done some Vegas-begging records featuring his Elvis-like baritone. Ryuichi Sakamoto, Duval Timothy, Anohni and Perfume Genius are cited as similar artists, as are The Carpenters (!), but for general audience purposes, I'd say it's more like a cross between Nick Cave and the Eels, or Ben Folds on downers. This person is obviously a good pianist; given the rather casual noises they allowed into the recordings, I assume most of the tunes that ended

up on the record were first takes, which I have no problem with whatsoever. It's made for a very intimate album filled with a certain warmth despite Harris's creepy singing; hearing Harris tap their foot and pop off a few random spoken lines keeps things interesting to say the least. It's a tour de force of something, even if I'm not exactly sure what. **A** —Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Friday, Jan. 19, will see buckets of new rock 'n' roll CDs dumped into the stores by guys with trucks, that's how it works, folks! I can safely predict that a few trucks will be filled to bursting with the new **Green Day** album, *Saviors*, when it comes out this Friday, so that 35-year-olds will buy them and relive the days of skateboarding and having no clue whatsoever what punk really means, good times, amirite folks? Yes, yes, I was there, when they first arrived on the scene, and all the old punks were like "OK, it's official, punk is dead," but I was in a cover band at the time, and the bass player wanted to do "Longview" (I guess because maybe he thought that somehow an 8-year-old who actually liked Green Day would somehow end up in one of the adults-only clubs we played at), so I had to learn the lyrics to that dumb song, and every time we played it I'd have to go wash out my ears with some Ramones or Buzzcocks just to keep my stomach calm. Anyhoo, FYI, when anyone asked me whether or not I actually liked Green Day, I'd always change the subject to sports (all the Boston teams were losers back then, sort of like they are now) so I wouldn't have to admit that I was just singing the Green Day song for money from drunks, but in retrospect I forgive the band for destroying punk once and for all, because I actually did like one of the songs, I forget which — oh, "American Idiot," that one. It's sort of like '80s Joan Jett but with guys singing, and, just like that, I've digressed. Since there's no way punk could be destroyed any more than it is, I suppose I'll trudge over to the YouTube and see what they're yammering about now, in the opening song "The American Dream Is Killing Me." Ack, why would anyone in a band even want to play this song, it's just "Longview" except the guitars have about 50 overdubs, and, as usual it isn't actually punk, it's something for Nylon to write about and promptly forget forever. It basically sounds like Weezer trying to be Foo Fighters or something. All set with this, barf barf barf.

• If you put Versus and Sheryl Crow into a Mixmaster and flipped the switch, you'd have "Honey," the leadoff single from the upcoming **Packs** album, *Melt the Honey*. This Canadian slacker-indie band, led by Madeline Link, has been compared to Best Coast, though I don't know why; they tend to write generally hookless tunes and throw them out on their Bandcamp space without much ado, a practice I'm fine with overall, I suppose, but I'd almost rather subject myself to a Pavement LP (I'm kidding, there's literally nothing worse than Pavement, as you probably know) than investigate this disposable nonsense, but for its part at least it isn't shapeless musical tapioca like Broken Social Scene (sorry, did that sound grumpy? I can never tell).

• Today I learned that feminist-indie band **Sleater-Kinney** took its name from a road in Lacey, Washington. I also found out that they've still got it, because their new LP, *Little Rope*, is actually pretty good. You can listen to the whole thing on YouTube, if that's your wont, and if you do, you'll hear some sturdy, interesting, Wire-like art-rock on "Say It Like You Mean It," and "Hell" will probably remind you of the No-Nos. Best stuff I've heard from them, anyway.

• We'll wrap things up with a seriously casual shoegaze band from Bristol, U.K., **The Fauns**, whose new LP, *How Lost*, is their first in 10 years! The title track's guitar line evokes Modern English's "I Melt With You" and the lady's singing is neck-deep in reverb. Yup, it's a shoegaze band all right, end of mini-review! —Eric W. Saeger

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Don't Die, by Bryan Johnson (Kindle and self-published paperback, 247 pages)

A few months ago, Time magazine profiled Bryan Johnson with a headline "The Man Who Thinks He Can Live Forever." It was the latest in a spate of publicity for the 46-year-old entrepreneur who, like Moses, climbed a mountain and descended with a bunch of new rules for everyone.

Since that life-altering trek to Mt. Kilimanjaro, Johnson divorced his wife, left his religion, got un-depressed and devoted his life to what he considers humanity's most pressing challenge: vanquishing death. His days are now spent undergoing a series of interventions and protocols intended to elude, or at least forestall, death, and recruiting others to the cause.

"Don't Die" is both Johnson's motto and the name of his new book, which is free on Kindle (a paperback costs around \$7). That in itself is evidence that Johnson is not "normal" in any sense of the word; anyone with his following on social media could find a traditional publisher and a respectable advance if they are willing to play ball with editors. But Johnson is determined to follow his own vision, however odd it seems to the rest of the world. He has said he's not interested in what his contemporaries think of him, but what people who live centuries from now think of him. In other words, he don't need no stinkin' editors and he doesn't care about his critics.

Consequently, *Don't Die* is, at times, a bewildering mess with occasional forays into brilliance.

The book begins reasonably enough, with an introduction in which Johnson describes a bit of his journey. Then it descends into a fanciful dialogue among a series of characters built on the various facets of himself that journeyed up Mt. Kilimanjaro. These characters are largely self-explanatory through their crude names: Scribe, Model Builder, Authority Seeker, Farm Boy, Cognitive Bias, Relentless, Game Play, Dark Humor, Self Critical and so forth. (Why there is no consistency among these names — e.g., Game Player — why some nouns and some adjectives, I could not tell you.)

There are two other beings in the narrative: Blueprint, a newcomer to the group (and the real-life name of Johnson's "don't die" initiative) and Depression, a character/state that the rest of the group left on the mountain, which some regret doing.

Conversations with these versions of himself comprise most of the book, in ways that are occasionally interesting, and in other ways that make you want to throw your phone (or alternative viewing device) out the window.



For instance, in one, the "group" discusses the growth of automation, accompanied by "a slow erosion of human decision-making." While most people would think of this in terms of, say, a robot filling a fast-food order, Johnson wants to hasten the world to a place where "mind-off" automation governs our bodily functions, as he believes our natural processes are inefficient and poorly designed. As such, he believes we need to "demote" the conscious mind as the decision-making entity in favor of autonomous systems that get feedback from all our body's stakeholders about what our bodies need. For example, in this manner of thinking, our liver should have more say in what we consume (and what we do all day) than our impulsive mind.

Not only will this give us longer lives, but it will magnify human potential. As the character Blueprint says in the dialogue, "a world of autonomous selves will open up a proportional step change in freed-up energy, which will then allow the upleveling of the modern human mind to whatever we will one day be. The change will be as powerful as the one from ancient to modern human. One can only dare imagine what we will do and what our experience of existence may be." He believes that as much progress as humans have made, we could still be, right now, living in a sort of "Cognitive Paleolithic" age and that the only way out is to rise above the modern mind, which he calls "frail, ambitious, bullying, timid, and riddled with bias and error."

OK, so what about the not dying part, and why does Johnson call himself "Zero," going so far as to use that as his pen name and social media handle?

In all this Philosophy 101-level discussion, Johnson does insert the protocols that he says are effectively de-aging parts of his

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body, things like the perfectly calibrated vegan diet of 2,250 calories "spread out over optimal times during the day" and not drinking fluids after 4 p.m. so he doesn't wake up during the night.

The foodstuff he talks about on podcasts is all there — the "nutty pudding," the dark chocolate, the olive oil, the "super veggie." And he is, at times, winsomely self-deprecating and even funny, as when he describes a tin of food as "a slurry of seaweed chewed up and spat out by a dying bird" and he has Self Critical say, when looking at his plate, "I feel like the color has been drained from life."

But using the soft, patient voice that Blueprint says is necessary to win over skeptics, he convinces the team that an algorithm can and should be designed to take over the myriad manual tasks of daily existence. And over the course of the book, he addresses — and takes down — many of the criticisms directed at him over the past year.

Johnson is at his best when he derides the human tendency to let its lower faculties lead at the expense of the higher. Speaking on the miraculous nature of human consciousness, Devil May Care delivers a soliloquy about how the base need of hunger can transform "the most dynamic form of intelligence in the known universe into a simple calorie-finding machine."

And his arguments that the best and brightest *should* be pushing aggressively at the boundaries of the human lifespan are convincing. Most humans who have been

born over the course of our existence didn't make it past 20, he says. Age, or "life units," is the "scarcest and most valuable currency that has ever existed," along with freedom of choice. And when Scribe asked the various characters that are assembled what they would do if they knew this was the last day of their life, the Blueprint character had the most sensible answer: try to figure out how to thwart death.

Put this way, it seems that this should be what all of us should be doing every day. Which of course, is the central point that Johnson wants to get across. As for the "Zero" stuff, well, it remains kind of fuzzy why he thinks this is a good idea, but it derives from his thinking about first principles.

Don't Die is Johnson's long-form response to people who learn a little about him and dismiss him as a sun-avoiding, supplement-chugging, blood-transfusing nut. The book does help to explain Johnson in ways an hour-long podcast cannot, and if you stick with it, the dialogue format eventually makes sense and can even seem charming by the book's end, although it's downright torturous at the start. For people who just want some new-year inspiration about how to be healthier and live longer, there are far better books, such as Dr. Peter Attia's *Outlive*, and the basics of Johnson's protocols are more easily learned in the many audio and print interviews he does. C+ —*Jennifer Graham*

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 Saturday, Jan. 20, at 9:45 a.m. at Peterborough Town Library (2 Concord St., Peterborough, 924-8040). See nhhumanities.org.

• **JOSEPH W. MCQUAID**, author of *War Fronts Home Fires*, will talk about the book on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 p.m. at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) and on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com).

• **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.

• **JEANNE DIETSCH**, former New Hampshire senator from Peterborough, will discuss her report *New Hampshire: Battleground in the Fight to Dismantle Democracy* at Balin Books (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St., in Nashua; balinbooks.com, 417-7981) on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m.

Book events

• **HOUSE OF FLAME AND SHADOW** (Crescent City Series #3, by Sarah J. Maas) midnight release party at Barnes & Noble in Nashua (235 Daniel Webster Hwy., 888-0533) on Monday, Jan. 29, starting at 9 p.m. Reservations are required; call the store to reserve a book and spot.



History, stories & lectures

• **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.

Mean Girls (PG-13)

Fetch becomes retro cool in *Mean Girls*, a Tina Fey-penned feature film musical adaptation of the stage musical comedy based on the 2004 movie (also by Fey) based loosely on the nonfiction book *Queen Bees and Wannabees* by Rosalind Wiseman.

Once again, Cady Heron (Angourie Rice) has spent her life living in Africa and being homeschooled by her mother and now, in her junior year, arrives at an American high school. She finds the cliques and social rules and boys — particularly Aaron Samuels (Christopher Briney), who sits in front of her in math class — overwhelming. Luckily, she meets Janis ‘Imi’ke (Auli’i Cravalho) and Damian Hubbard (Jaquel Spivey), two “art freaks” as they’re later labeled, who check on her when she takes her lunch to the bathroom. Genuinely kind, Janis and Damian try to warn Cady about the Plastics — Regina George (Reneé Rapp) and her two followers, Gretchen Wieners (Bebe Woods) and Karen Shetty (Avantika). This trio of girls dominates the school’s social structure with queen bee Regina inspiring awe and fear in her fellow students. (Plus, she and Janis have an old beef.) But when Cady is invited to sit with these popular girls, Janis and Damian encourage her to do it so they can get a window into the world of the Plastics. Cady, trusting and unaware of what she’s getting into, goes along with the plan and gets sucked into the Plastics’ world. When Regina actively tanks Cady’s chances at dating Aaron, Cady decides to wholeheartedly participate in Janis’ plan to arrange for Regina’s downfall.

Returning as math teacher Ms. Norbury is Tina Fey, with Tim Meadows returning as Principal Duvall. Other grown-ups: Busy Philipps is Regina’s “cool mom” mom and Jon Hamm plays the coach.

There are moments of fun in this adaptation, many of them involving Cravalho’s Janis or Spivey’s Damian, and moments when those little Tina Fey sparkles of strategic weirdness hit their mark. But overall I got a real “flat soda” feel from this movie. The spikey bits of the original feel ironed out and replaced by earnestness that somehow made it feel darker and less specific. Instead of the “evil takes a human form in Regina George”-style exaggeration, we get Gretchen Wieners singing about how she feels deeply unloved and unlovable. I’m not sure if the act of having song replace Cady’s narration is what seems to throw a wet blanket of sincerity over things or if it is the result of replacing the elder millennial/Gen X sensibilities with Gen Z ones. I do think there are elements of the story that don’t quite fit because an earlier generation’s high school



Mean Girls

experience is being shoved into the present. TikTok, for example, is sort of wedged into the movie but it feels more like an excuse for jokey montage than some expression of how life is for Today’s Youth.

The 2004 *Mean Girls* was a broad, commercial comedy, sure, but it also had some insightful observations about girl world. *Mean Girls 2024* feels more like high-quality IP. **B-**

Rated PG-13 for sexual material, strong language and teen drinking, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Samantha Jayne and Arturo Perez Jr. with a screenplay by Tina Fey, Mean Girls is an hour and 52 minutes long and distributed in theaters by Paramount Pictures.

Wonka (PG)

Timothée Chalamet is surprisingly charming in the surprisingly fun Wonka.

I’ve been “ugh, really?” with the best of them since I started seeing *Wonka* trailers. But Chalamet captures the personality of the eccentric chocolate maker we know from the 1971 Gene Wilder movie and gives him a youthful cast that is believable and not creepy or off-putting (cough, Johnny Depp, cough). There is genuine wonder and delight in this musical — none of which is what I expected from early images of this project or even after reading the “this movie is ... good?”-type review headlines.

Willy Wonka (Chalamet) is just a guy with fluffy hair, some fun luggage and big dreams when he arrive in, er, Town where the speech patterns are London, the royalty is Bavarian and the big power is held by the chocolate cartel of Mr. Slugworth (Patterson Joseph), Prodnose (Matt Lucas) and Fickelgruber (Mathew Baynton). They use their exclusive high-end chocolates to bribe the police chief (Keegan-Michael Key) into doing their dirty work, like shoeing away itinerant chocolatiers. Wonka is a particular threat to the cartel because his chocolates are very good, perhaps the best anybody has

ever had, and affordable to all. Plus some of them briefly confer weightlessness, so they’re real crowd-pleasers.

After the police chase him out of the town square and take his chocolate proceeds, Wonka doesn’t have enough money to pay Mrs. Scrubitt (Olivia Colman, absolutely relishing this very Roald Dahl-esque kind of villain) for the room he leased from her. Or rather, he has enough for the room but not all of the extras he didn’t realize he’s on the hook for because he didn’t read the fine print of the lease. Soon he learns that he’s basically an indentured servant to Scrubitt and must work in her laundry with other trapped lease-signers (played by the likes of Jim Carter, Natasha Rothwell, Rich Fulcher and Rakhee Thakrar) and tween-aged orphan Noodle (Calah Lane), whom Scrubitt took in as an infant and who now owes Scrubitt for all that “kindness.” Because Noodle goes into town with the laundry, Wonka strikes up a deal with her wherein she smuggles him out during the days so he can sell his chocolate and he helps her pay down her debt to Scrubitt. With the help of the rest of the laundry gang — who are enjoying some down time thanks to a Wonka invention of a dog-powered scrubbing machine — Wonka is able to sneak through the town staying ahead of police, especially the increasingly out-of-shape chief whose recent payment from the cartel was so much chocolate that he is gaining pounds by the hour.

Meanwhile, cutting into Wonka’s chocolate supply is a small, green-haired orange man who Wonka claims to Noodle has been following him for years and who sometimes breaks into his room at night to steal his chocolates. Even after Wonka catches the man, who explains he is an Oompa Loompa named Lofty (Hugh Grant), Noodle isn’t quite sure she believes Wonka isn’t just eating the candies in his sleep.

Rowan Atkinson shows up as a chocolate-addicted cleric, a giraffe figures into the plot and Wonka half expects success at selling chocolate will lead his late moth-

er (Sally Hawkins) to appear to him. And, shockingly, all of this comes together and works as something that feels if not exactly like a Roald Dahl creation, very close to it, very sweet-bitter-sweet in that *Matilda* kind of way, but perhaps with a less bleak world view. Noodle tells Wonka that the “greedy beat the needy” in a very Dahl-like recognition that the world isn’t fair, but there’s lots of credence given to good-hearted dreams and helping one another too.

Wonka also makes a good argument for seeing a movie in a theater — its big colors and storybook town are charming and particularly cinematic. The color of the Wonka candy factory here spreads out to every interesting element of the world, from the bright pink uniforms Wonka’s staff wears on their brief foray into running a shop to the fantastical hair colors created by tainted chocolate.

Wonka is a warm-hearted movie that actually delivers on the “world of pure imagination” promise. **B+**

Rated PG for some violence, mild language and thematic elements, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Paul King with a screenplay by Simon Farnaby & Paul King, Wonka is an hour and 56 minutes long and distributed in theaters by Warner Bros.

Poor Things (R)

Emma Stone plays a kind of baby-brained Frankenstein’s monster in the steampunk horror comedy Poor Things.

Bella Baxter (Stone) is basically a toddler in a woman’s body when we first meet her, sitting in a high chair and clapping at the loud burps of Dr. Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe), the man who acts as her surrogate father. Baxter is a Victorian-era-esque surgeon, enthralled with anatomy (and disfigured by his own father, who passed off his torture as science), who has successfully, based on the creatures wandering his house, sewn goose heads on dogs and vice versa, with living results. Bella, we learn, is the result of an experiment by which the brain of an infant was placed in the body of its mother after the pregnant woman jumped off a bridge. A few “it’s alive!”-style jolts of electricity and Bella — not quite an adult, not quite a baby — opens her eyes.

Quickly Bella begins to talk, to reason to some degree and to ask questions of “God,” as she calls Dr. Baxter, and of Max McCandles (Ramy Youssef), an assistant he brings in to document her mental growth. Eventually Baxter feels her maturity has progressed enough that he suggests that Bella and Max get married, though he intends for them to basically live with him, never leaving his London house, forever even though Bella is of a more adventurous, see-the-world mindset.



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Then Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo), a lawyer Baxter calls in to read the marriage contract, seduces Bella into running away. Or maybe she just decides to run away and have an adventure before returning to marry Max. They travel first to Lisbon and then on a ship to Greece. Duncan is in it entirely for the passion, which Bella also enjoys, but Bella also wants to learn about the world. Thus when they're detoured, penniless, to Paris and she's offered a job by the madame (Kathryn Hunter) of a brothel, Duncan is horrified but Bella just sees it as an opportunity for study.

Ever seen the TV show *Bones*? As Bella goes from child-brain to adult brain or something, she starts to play like a kind of Temperance Brennan, Emily Deschanel's scientist Bones of *Bones*. "What is this 'emotion' of which you speak?" is the vibe — though not always because Bella also becomes sort of enamored of philosophy and socialism and heartbroken by the horrors of poverty. She loves anatomy and discussions of Emerson but she doesn't understand Duncan's emotional whininess — not his ego about his romantic prowess nor his supposed great love for her nor his "heartbreak" (or bruised pride) at her brothel work. It's — I don't know, weird? Unsettling? Infantilizing in a way that makes all the sex cringey? All of those things? Throughout

this movie's two hour and 21 minute run time, I maybe did a "ha" once or twice or thought "neat visual" or "Stone's doing an interesting thing" but I was never entirely certain how I felt about what I was watching. (Stone's performance in particular both has its moments and feels like you're watching a prolonged exercise in an acting class.) I wasn't bored but also not delighted or all that amused or "hmm, this makes me think." And though the movie presents everything as kind of a dry comedy lark, scratch half a millimeter into what is being said or done and the movie really does feel like a kind of horror movie, a horror movie where one of the horrors seems to be the movie periodically telling you it's doing feminism and you're welcome. (No thank you.)

This movie feels like a bunch of ideas and visuals sort of mashed together in the hope that they'll congeal into something living and breathing but ultimately missing that jolt of energy that would make it a world I was fully invested in. **C-**

Rated R for strong and pervasive sexual content, graphic nudity, disturbing material, gore and language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Yorgos Lanthimos with a screenplay by Tony McNamara (from a book by Alasdair Gray), Poor Things is two hours and 21 minutes long and distributed in theaters by Searchlight Pictures.



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• **Blues man:** While growing up, **Guy Davis** said the only cotton he picked was his underwear off the floor. He told a journalist that the first time he heard the blues was in college, played by pale Vermont boys. Still, Davis embodies the genre, channeling masters like Howlin' Wolf and Blind Willie McTell while possessing a unique style of his own. Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., The Flying Goose, 40 Andover Road, New London, \$30; call 526-6899 to reserve.

• **Guitar master:** Best-known for his work with Dave Matthews, guitarist **Tim Reynolds** leads TR3. Over a 40-year-plus career, Reynolds has ranged across the musical spectrum, from rock to jazz, classical, blues and reggae, on acoustic and electric instruments. Mick Vaughn and Dan Martier round out the trio, which will soon release a new album, *Watch It*. Friday, Jan. 19, 9 p.m., Rex Theatre, 21 Amherst St., Manchester, \$39 and \$49 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Cowboy rock:** The twang-fueled alter ego of prog rock band Mindset X, **Horsefly Gulch** appears in a double bill with relentless rockers The Negans. After dropping a pair of excellent singles last year, "Snake Dance" and "One That Got Away," the trio is readying its debut LP, *A Western Love Story*. Last October they were painted by local concert artist Steve Paquin on live TV. Friday, Jan. 19, 9 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St, Manchester, \$10 suggested cover (21+).

• **Weird return:** Strange and endearing Zanois is back from a long absence as **King Imp**, with support from Hometown Eulogy and Drug Deal Gone Rad. Kyle, the brother band's cave-eyed, grimacing mascot who was for a time the Forrest Gump of indie rock, now has a crown and a cape, and their feedback-y, ethereal noise rock is still plenty of fun. Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 p.m., Penuche's Ale House, 16 Bicentennial Square, Concord. See facebook.com/KingImpBand (21+).

• **Musical stretch:** A unique late afternoon session of yoga and live music features **Wyn Doran**, who will pair her songs with poses and actions, each section including time for reflection and connection. The yoga studio and its offerings are very special to Doran, who's dealt with chronic pain in recent years and has found their fitness regimen beneficial in addressing it. Sunday, Jan. 21, 4:30 p.m., Vibe Yoga, 182 Main St., Nashua, \$40 at vibeyoga603.com. 🧘

NITE

Still going strong

Bobby Rush's lifetime of the blues

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Taylor Swift's Eras Tour covered less than two decades of music. For Bobby Rush a similar endeavor would need to scale up, perhaps to the Epoch level. Rush, who turned 90 last November, boasts that he's released at least 429 albums over his career, which began in the late 1940s. Along the way he also made too many singles to count. Before long-players were a thing, he even put out a 78.

"I don't want to talk about that ... that makes it sound too old," Rush said in a recent phone interview. "But life is like — it's a blessing to get old. Because the only way you don't get old, you die young. So, I laugh about it."

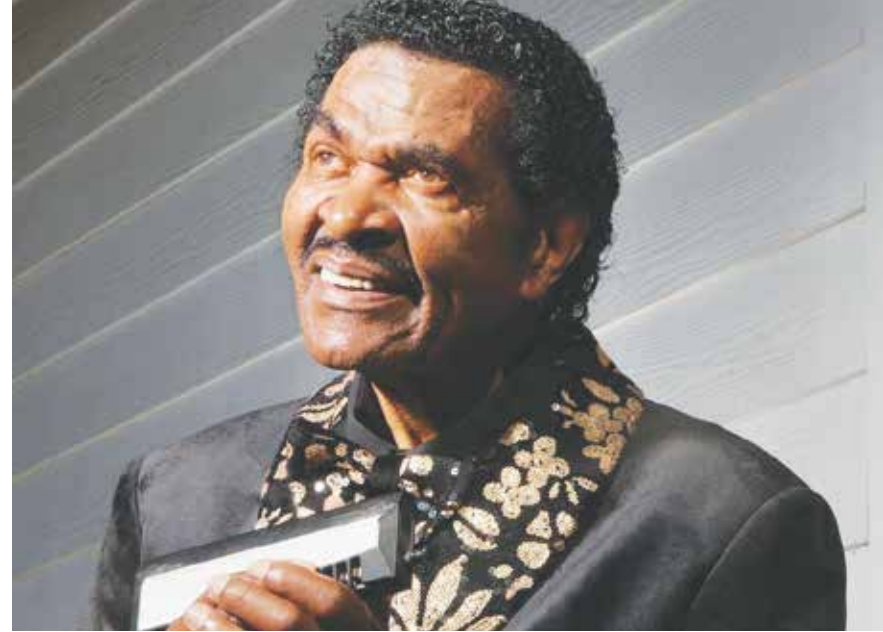
Rush's first band included Elmore James and Pinetop Perkins. In the early 1950s Muddy Waters unsuccessfully tried to recruit him to play harmonica in his band.

"I wanted my own thing," he said. "He wanted me to play like Little Walter, because that's what he was used to in his band. I didn't want to do that because I didn't want to emulate him."

His biggest success came late in life. He received his first Grammy nomination in 2001, and won in 2017 for *Porcupine Meat* and in 2021 for *Rawer Than Raw*. *All My Love for You*, his latest album, is a gem, but Bobby Rush is more interested in talking about what he's doing than what he's done.

Case in point is a work in progress that has contributions from Kenny Wayne Shepherd and others.

"I tell you now, get on top of Bobby Rush [for] the next two, three albums going to come out," he said. "This is it for me. I don't mean it's the last one I'm doing, but I'm putting everything I have into it. I



Bobby Rush. Courtesy photo.

“I’m still enthused about the blues and the work that I do, and that keeps me motivated.”

BOBBY RUSH

there because Howlin' Wolf was there, and B.B. King was there, and Muddy Waters was there, Little Walter was there — all the guys that I looked up to," he said, adding that being in the city made it easier to "steal some ideas; I just wanted to be in what they call The Loop, man, you know?"

Over the following decades he earned the nickname King of the Chitlin' Circuit, for his time playing the network of mostly Black clubs in the South. The moniker was cemented in Martin Scorsese's documentary *The Blues*. In 1968 he connected with ex-Vee Jay A&R head Calvin Carter and made his biggest hit, "Chicken Heads,"

think it will be the best material that I ever recorded."

Beyond Shepherd and some North Mississippi pals, Rush won't say who he's working with on the new material, other than promising there are some big names.

"These guys I'm recording with," he said, pride beaming in his voice, "they just come to play with me and hear me. They're not really asking to bring anything to the table other than themselves."

Rush spent most of his career based in Chicago. "I wanted to be

a song he re-recorded in 2021 with Buddy Guy, Gov't Mule and Christone "Kingfish" Ingram to mark the 50th anniversary of its release.

On the autobiographical "I'm the One" from the new album (released last November), Rush sings about how he "put the funk in the blues" on songs like "I Wanna Do the Do," a dance-y rework of Willie Dixon's "Wang Dang Doodle" from his 1979 LP *Rush Hour*.

"I tried to do that because it's nothing new under the sun, everything's been done," he explained. "It's the way you approach it, you have to modify what you do."

Rush has longevity in his bloodline. "My grandfather passed at 107, my grandmother was 111, and my mom was 89," he said. "My dad was 96 and he had brothers and sisters, 21 of them lived over 100." Still, that doesn't fully explain the fire in the blues singer, harmonica player and songwriter's soul that keeps him walking on stage night after night, even as he enters his 10th decade.

"God gave me the strength to keep going," he said. "I'm still enthused about the blues and the work that I do, and that keeps me motivated. I know a man can live a long time without water or food, but you can't live long without hope. I still have hope, man. Out of all my ups and downs I've been through in life ... I still am enthused about the things that I'm surrounded by and the things that I do, and I am just glad to be here." 🧘

Bobby Rush w/ Eric Lindberg Band

When: Sunday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
Where: Bank of NH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord
Tickets: \$43.75 and up at ccanh.com

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222	Brookline The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Dover Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240	287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	Murphy's Taproom 494 Elm St., 644-3535	Tomahawk Tavern 454 Daniel Webster Hwy., 365-4960
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234	Candia The Barnyard / Town Cabin Pub 285 Old Candia Road, 483-4888	Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390	The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	BluAqua 930 Elm St., 836-3970	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020	Tortilla Flat 595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564	Concord Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	Epping Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225	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	Milford The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square, 672-2270
Bedford 1750 Taphouse 170 Route 101, 488-2564	Lithermans 126 Hall St., Unit B	Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027	Shane's Texas Pit 61 High St., 601-7091	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 1050 Bicentennial Drive, 625-1730	Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480
Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841	Wally's Pub 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954	Laconia Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022	The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925	South Side Tavern 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625-4444
Murphy's Carriage House 393 Route 101, 488-5875	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	Hillsboro Main Street Grill and Bar 126 W. Main St., 290-4887	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	Litchfield Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria Mel's Funway Park 454 Charles Bancroft Highway, 377-7664	The Goat 50 Old Granite St.	Wild Rover 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722	Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	Derry Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Londonderry Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022	Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789	Meredith Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876	Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485
		Hampton CR's The Restaurant			The Hill Bar & Grille McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct., 622-6159	Merrimack Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022	Nashua Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400
					KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St., 627-RIBS		Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015
							Hidden Pig 53 Main St., 402-9640
							Liquid Therapy

Thursday, Jan. 18

Auburn Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.	Epping Telly's: Dave Clark, 7 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: 603's, 7 p.m.	7 p.m.	Concord Hermanos: Craig Fahey, 6:30 p.m.	Hillsboro Main Street Bar & Grill: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.	Epsom Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	Manchester BluAqua Restrobar: Lewis Goodwin, 8 p.m. Fratello's: Chris Taylor, 5:30 p.m. Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.	Seabrook Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m. Red's: Jay Gratton Duo, 7 p.m.	Dover Auspicious Brew: The 2000's, The Orrs, Kill-Kennie & The Vandal, 8 p.m.	Hudson Luk's: Dave Clark, 7 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
Brookline Alamo: open mic with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.	Gilford Patrick's: Don Severance and Trent Larrabee Slim Volume, 6 p.m.	Merrimack Homestead: Dave Zangri, 5:30 p.m. Tomahawk: Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m. Tortilla Flat: Richard Wallace, 6 p.m.	Somersworth Earth Eagle: open mic w/Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.	Epping Telly's: J-Lo Duo, 8 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.
Candia Town Cabin: Henry Laliberte, 6 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Bob Tirelli & Steve Kelly, 6 p.m. Wally's: open mic, 8 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.	Friday, Jan. 19	Epsom Hill Top: Dave Ayotte, 7 p.m.	Litchfield Day of the Dead: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Concord Hermanos: Hot Skillet Club, 6:30 p.m. Lithermans: Tyler Levs, 5:30 p.m.	Hudson Luk's: Matt Borello, 7 p.m. Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Nashua Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m. Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Pete Pappas, 6 p.m.	Alton Bay Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m. Foster's Tavern: Mikey G, 6 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m. The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Wally's: Pop Daddy, 9 p.m. Whym: Chris Cavanaugh, 6:30 p.m.	Londonderry Coach Stop: Joanie Cicatelli, 6 p.m. Stumble Inn: Rumboat Chili, 8 p.m.
Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ Jason, 7 p.m.	Northwood Northwoods Brewing: Timbear Music, 5:30 p.m.	Bedford Murphy's: Bella Perrotta, 6 p.m.	Brookline Alamo: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.	
Dover Auspicious Brew: open stage drag night, 8 p.m.	Laconia Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.	Pittsfield Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.			
		Portsmouth The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.			
		Salem Copper Door: Jon Paul Royer,			

Music, live and in person

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



NOW THEY'RE OVERHEAD

Portsmouth-based quintet **The Bulkheads** bring together the infectious grooves of funk and the anything-can-happen feel of classic jam bands. They're at the Stone Church (5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com) on Friday, Jan. 19, at 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 to \$15, plus fees.

14 Court St., 402-9391	1334 First NH Tpk., 942-6400	Pease Golf Course, 200 Grafton Road, 766-6466	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581
San Francisco Kitchen 133 Main St., 886-8833	Penacook American Legion Post 31 11 Charles St., 753-9372	Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070	Pittsfield Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162	Rochester Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030
New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Market St., 430-9122	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033	Somersworth Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421
Northfield Boonedoxz Pub 95 Park St., 717-8267	The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628	Luna Bistro 254 N. Broadway, 458-2162	
Northwood Northwoods Brewing Co.	Grill 28	T-Bones 311 South Broadway, 893-3444	

p.m.

Manchester Backyard Brewery: Josh Foster, 6 p.m.

BluAqua Restrobar: Casey Roop, 9 p.m.

Bonfire: Phil Maurice, 9 p.m.

Derryfield: Last Kid Picked, 8 p.m.

Foundry: Kimayo, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Joe Winslow, 6 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: Brewed & Acoustic open mic, 6 p.m.

Shaskeen: Horsefly Gulch, 9 p.m.

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

Strange Brew: Lisa Marie, 8 p.m.

Meredith Twin Barns: Eric Lindberg, 5 p.m.

Merrimack Homestead: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.

Milford Pasta Loft: Jamelot, 8:30 p.m.

Riley's: Boogie Man, 8 p.m.

Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Moultonborough Buckey's: Garrett Smith, 6:30 p.m.

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

Fody's: DJ Wensy Rivera, 10 p.m.

Hidden Pig: Chris Perkins, 6 p.m.

San Francisco Kitchen: Tyler Levs, 6:30 p.m.

New Boston Molly's: Clint Lapointe, 6:30 p.m.

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

Northwood Northwoods Brewing: George and Louise Belli, 6 p.m.

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

Pittsfield Over the Moon: Christine & Roy, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth Gas Light: Sam Hammerman, 9:30 p.m.

Grill 28: Doug Mitchell, 6 p.m.

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

Seabrook Red's: Groovy Tuesday, 8 p.m.

Somersworth Earth Eagle: Wheel of Awesome, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 20

Alton Bay Foster's Tavern: Lone Wolf Project, 6 p.m.

Bedford Murphy's: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.

Bow Chen Yang Li: Alex Cohen, 7 p.m.

Brookline Alamo: Matt Bergeron, 6 p.m.

Concord Hermanos: Phil Sargent, 6:30 p.m.

Dover Auspicious Brew: Autumn Hol-low, Jon Nolan, Dan Blakeslee, 8 p.m.



WEARER OF MANY HATS

Two-time Grammy nominee **Guy Davis** has explored harrowing historical narratives and depicted great joy through a variety of media, from prose writing and stage acting to his contemporary take on traditional blues. If his website can be believed, the man also rocks a fedora with panache. Don't miss his appearance at the Flying Goose (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 plus fees.

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Epping

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

Gilford

Patrick's Pub: Joel Cage, 6 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Whym: Peter Pappas, 6:30 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Rock Junkies, 8:30 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Paul Lussier, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: East Coast Cow-boys, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Ken Budka, 6 p.m.

BluAqua Restrobar: Justin Cohn, 9 p.m.

Bonfire: Shana Stack Band, 9 p.m.

Derryfield: Off the Record, 8 p.m.

Foundry: Garrett Smith, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Johnny Angel, 6 p.m.

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

Shaskeen: Nu Metal night, 9 p.m.

Strange Brew: Wiki 3, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Paul Driscoll, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Paul Gornley, 6 p.m.

Nashua

Fody's: Occam's Razor, 10 p.m.

Liquid Therapy: Brian Wall, 7 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Garrett Partridge Duo, 6:30 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Miner & Ryan, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Matt Luneau, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Luna Bistro: Phil Jaques, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: The Few Abides, 8 p.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 21
Bedford**

1750 Taphouse: Chad LaMarsh, 5 p.m.

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Murphy's: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Henry Laliberte, 4 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Billy Stephen & Guest, 4 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Redemption Trio, 2 p.m.

Manchester

Bonfire: free line dancing, 6 p.m.

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

Wild Rover: Dave Clark, 5 p.m.

Milford

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

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Phil Maurice, 7 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 22
Dover**

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

Gilford

Patrick's Pub: open mic w/ John McArthur, 6 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

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

Jaffrey

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.

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

Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Chris Taylor, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

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

**Tuesday, Jan. 23
Concord**

Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais, 6:30 p.m.

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

Hampton

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

Wally's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Johnny Angel, 5 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Henry LaLiberte, 5:30 p.m.

KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

Strange Brew: David Rousseau, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Lewis Goodwin, 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. 24
Concord**

Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Hampton

Wally's: music bingo, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Johnny Roberts, 6 p.m.

Kingston

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

Manchester

BluAqua Restrobar: Colin Hart, 7 p.m.

Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.

Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.

Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Milford

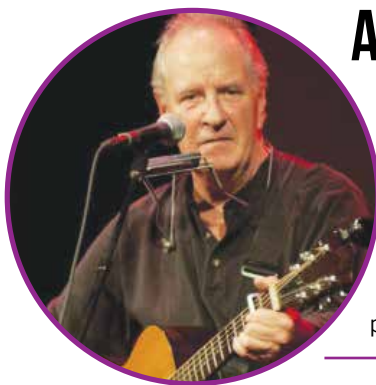
Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Red's: Dave Foley, 7 p.m.



ALL THE PRETTY VERSES

Singer-songwriter **Cormac McCarthy** has spent more than half a decade depicting the small triumphs and great tragedies of rural New England through clear-eyed lyrics and straightforward melodies. He returns to the Press Room (77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, pressroomnh.com) on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$30, plus fees.



COMEDY FOR A CAUSE

Three of New England's favorite comedians — **Amy Tee, Mark Riley** and **Kyle New** — join forces to raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. The show takes place at the Amato Center (56 Mont Vernon, Milford, 672-1002, amatocenter.org) on Saturday, Jan. 20, and the laughs start at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$50 plus fees.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

- **Christopher Titus** Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusicall.org), Friday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m.
- **Dorks in Dungeons** Rochester Opera House (rochesteroperahouse.com), Friday, Jan. 19, and Saturday, Jan. 20, 7:30 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 (amatocenter.org), Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Mitch Stinson** McCue's in Portsmouth (mccuescomedyclub.com), Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
- **Cory G** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, 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 (themusicall.org), Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford/Rob Steen** Nan King, Thursday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
- **Lee DeWye** Friday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusicall.org)

- **Kenny Rogerson/Jody Sloane/David Lamb** Tupelo, in Derry (tupelomusicall.com) 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.
- **Cory Gee** Chunky's Nashua (chunkys.com), Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m.
- **Dan Crohn** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m.

Film

- **The Boys in the Boat** (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 21, at 1:30, 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 22, at 4:15 & 7 p.m.
- **American Fiction** (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 21, at 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 22, through Thursday, Jan. 25, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.
- **Priscilla** (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth

- (themusicall.org) on Thursday, Jan. 18, at 7 p.m.
- **The Boy and the Heron** (PG-13, 2023) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey (theparktheatre.org) Friday, Jan. 19, at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 20, at 2 & 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Titanic the Musical**, a screening of a filmed version of the musical's 2023 U.K. tour, will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusicall.org) on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m.
- **Ferrari** (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth

- (themusicall.org) on Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 21, at 1 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.
- **The Last Command** (1928) a silent film featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre.
- **Poor Things** (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord (redrivertheatres.org) on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m.
- **Singing in the Rain** (1952) will screen at Red River Theatres (redrivertheatres.org) in Concord on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m.

THE
ZOO
HEALTH CLUB

JANUARY SPECIAL

\$20.24 DOWN

\$20.24 FIRST MONTH

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JAN 1ST THROUGH JAN 15TH

NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Trivia

Events

- **General Knowledge 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com).
- **Barbie 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com).

Weekly

- **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St. in Warner, 456-2143, reednorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** music trivia at Day of

- the Dead Taqueria (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy. in Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with Game Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 Daniel Webster Hwy., Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** Opinionation by Sporele trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road in Concord; 226-8667) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Hop Knot (1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Shooters Sports Pub (6 Columbus Ave., Exeter, 772-3856) at 7:15 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from

8 to 10 p.m.

- **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.
- **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
- **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday** trivia at Biergarten Anheuser-Busch (221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Sunday** trivia at Mountain Base Brewery (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 315-8382) at 4 p.m.
- **Monday** Pub Quiz at Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Sea Dog Brewing (5 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535,

- thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Topwater Brewing (748 Calef Hwy., Barrington, 664-5444) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Don Ramon (6 Whitney St., Merrimack, 420-8468) from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Millyard Brewery (125 E. Otterson St., Nashua; 722-0104, millyardbrewery.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St.; Manchester, 232-3751, snhhg.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) at 8 p.m.

Concerts

Venues

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Music Hall Lounge
131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic hall.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, pasta loft.com/live-music



Boogie Wonder Band.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shows

- **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
- **Chris Grice** Friday, Jan. 19, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
- **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
- **The Bulkheads** Friday, Jan. 19, 9 p.m., Stone Church
- **A Band of Killers** Friday, Jan. 19, 9 p.m., Press Room
- **Dillan Welch** Saturday, Jan. 20, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Dubble** Saturday, Jan. 20, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers

- **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
- **Gunning & Cormier** Saturday, Jan. 20, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Tom DiMenna Sings Gordon Lightfoot** Saturday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m., Palace
- **Beatlejuice** (Beatles tribute) Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **The Trichomes** Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 p.m., Stone Church
- **Life's A Drag** Saturday, Jan. 20, 9 p.m., Chunky's Manchester
- **1964** (Beatles tribute) Sunday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., Palace
- **California Guitar Trio** Sunday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Seth Rosenbloom Quartet** Saturday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Bobby Rush** Sunday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
- **The Cold Stares** Wednesday, Jan. 24, and Thursday, Jan. 25,

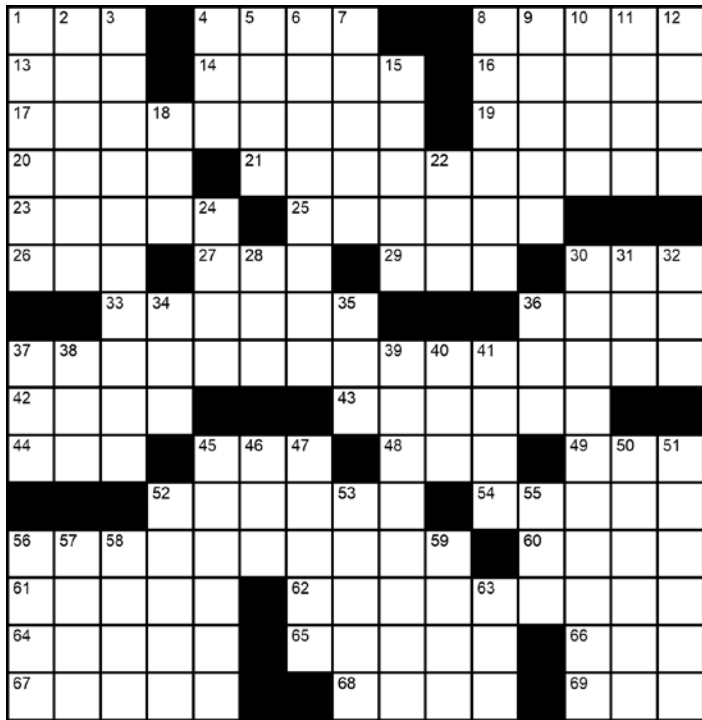
- 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Aldous Collins** Wednesday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Drum Tao** Thursday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **The Regular Gents** Friday, Jan. 26, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
- **Lez Zeppelin** (Led Zeppelin tribute) Friday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m., Angel City
- **Ricky Nelson Remembered** Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Lindsey Weber** Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Red Hot Chili Pipers** Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Dueling Pianos** Friday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
- **Lee DeWyze** Friday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **The Silks** Friday, Jan. 26, 9 p.m., Press Room
- **The Regular Gents** Saturday, Jan. 27, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Imagination Movers** Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Paul Wolstencroft** Saturday, Jan. 27, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
- **High Range with Hot Skillet Club** Saturday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Mega Mango/Teal Peel** Saturday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m., Press Room

DICEY BUSINESS



Are you a fan of improv comedy, or would you rather spend your evenings at a role-playing game? Either way you'll want to check out the comedic wizards and wenches of **Dorks in Dungeons**. The tabletop RPG-inspired improv group takes a roll at the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com) on Friday, Jan. 19, and Saturday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$18 to \$20, plus fees.

“Welcome to ‘24”—the year with things in common.



Across

- 1. Roast battle hosts, for short
- 4. Bumble profile maintainers?
- 8. Flight seat option
- 13. “___ y Plata” (Montana motto)
- 14. Actress Mitra of “The Practice”
- 16. National prefix
- 17. Lead character of “24”
- 19. Feeling regret
- 20. Early Peruvian
- 21. Nursery rhyme pie fillers (“four and twenty”, they say)
- 23. Connect with
- 25. Barely achieve
- 26. Rowboat implement
- 27. George Burns title role
- 29. Impersonated
- 30. Spot for a soak
- 33. Big name in circuses
- 36. Loads
- 37. Ratio that’s often 24 for film cameras
- 42. Like some salad dressings
- 43. Stracciatella, e.g.
- 44. 7’7” former NBAer Manute
- 45. “___ the Walrus” (1967 Beatles tune)
- 48. Uno plus uno
- 49. Talk trash about
- 52. Removes names from pictures, on some social media platforms
- 54. To the letter
- 56. Units where 24 = 100%
- 60. Poodle plager
- 61. Remain patient
- 62. The NBA sets it at 24
- 64. Penny-pincher
- 65. Vietnamese capital

- 66. Burns downvote?
- 67. Planetarium display
- 68. ___ baby (one who’s famous via family connections)
- 69. Pre-album drops

Down

- 1. Mint-garnished cocktail
- 2. They surround brains

- 3. Goal-oriented item?
- 4. Royal sphere
- 5. Obsessive whale hunter of fiction
- 6. Biffed it
- 7. Creep around
- 8. “He’s right. Ain’t no rule that says a dog can’t play basketball” movie
- 9. Arctic First Nations resident
- 10. Make Kool-Aid
- 11. Give for a bit
- 12. Rowing machine units
- 15. Took a curved path
- 18. “WandaVision” actress Dennings
- 22. Pond fish
- 24. Fairy tale meanie
- 28. Come-___ (enticements)
- 30. Was the odd one out
- 31. “___ de Replay” (Rihanna’s first single)
- 32. Joining word
- 34. Actress Adams
- 35. Sister of Chris and Stewie
- 36. Division for “Hamlet” or “Hamilton”
- 37. Keyless car key
- 38. Duran Duran hit of 1982
- 39. Former Viacom chairman Sumner
- 40. ___-pitch softball
- 41. Reduce
- 45. Comic book artists
- 46. ___ standstill
- 47. Swampland
- 50. Polar covering
- 51. They may never have been higher

- 52. Part that the ointment Bag Balm was designed for
- 53. Depeche Mode lead singer David
- 55. Short-lived gridiron org. revived in 2020
- 56. Legs, in film noir monologues
- 57. “In memoriam” piece
- 58. Simpson who got into cross-words around 2008
- 59. Word before “Hammer time!”
- 63. A.F.L. merger partner

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EASY

3-	6x		1
	2-	2÷	
3		5+	1-
2÷			

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CHALLENGING

20x	5-		2÷		3
	4-	3+		3	20x
3		60x	11+		
3+			1	10+	
	72x	3-			3÷
		5	3÷		

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RULES

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

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

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

4	3+	2-	3
4	2	1	3
3+	2	1	3
1	3	4	2
12x	3	4	2

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Six fruits ending in a vowel
- Four European countries
- The Dynamic Duo
- “___ Jones’s Diary”
- It has two moons

Last Week’s Answers: NEWHART BARKER MARLEY DYLAN HOPE / GRIZZLY POLAR BLACK BROWN / SPAIN NEPAL LIBYA / HELP YELP / BELGIUM

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

Don't forget the pouring rain

Across

- 1. United ___ Emirates
- 5. Big hit
- 10. Inept musician
- 14. Justin Moore '___ A Hook'
- 15. Musical direction meaning "all"
- 16. Heart '___ Wanna Do Is Make Love To You'
- 17. Need them for nosebleeds
- 19. Guns N' Roses '___ N' The Bedouins'
- 20. 80s singer Adam
- 21. Grammy-winning 'Cold Shoulder' Brit
- 22. 'Unstable' nu-metalers
- 23. Sugarland 'Take Me ___ Am'
- 24. "Darling, won't you ease my worried mind"
- 26. Johnny Nash '___ Clearly Now'
- 30. Godflesh song about Jesus?
- 34. 'Silent All These Years' Amos
- 35. Iconic funkman Stone
- 37. He loads and unloads
- 38. Peels off former image
- 40. "Of A Revolution" band
- 42. Some startup gigs?
- 43. Wardrobe might be doing it
- 45. 'Whatever It Is' ___ Brown Band
- 47. Chart bullseyes
- 48. Pink "Put ___ wrong and I'm gonna fall"
- 50. Dance music Kraftwerk inspired

Down

- 52. Iron Man?
- 54. "Tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old ___ tree"
- 55. Performing rights org.
- 58. Some bands try to make it on the west one
- 60. Dickey Betts "___ long time gone"
- 63. Moody Blues 'Say What You ___'
- 64. Billy Joel 'The ___ Alexa'
- 66. T. Rex singer Bolan
- 67. Pearl Jam bassman Jeff
- 68. Deadly Jimmy Eat World song?
- 69. Ani DiFranco 'Outta Me, And ___ You'
- 70. Stone Temple Pilots' Dean
- 71. Mazzy Star 'Fade ___ You'

Rocket ___'

- 51. Allman Bros '___ Peach'
- 53. What's thrown in at breakup
- 55. Great producer for album?
- 56. Kiss cohort Delaney
- 57. What you add CDs to, on Amazon
- 59. 'Broken Hearted Me' Murray
- 60. Tyrese 'Get ___'
- 61. Modern English 'I ___ With You'
- 62. 'Washington County' Guthrie
- 64. Danish hard rockers
- 65. Mask failed rocker might wear

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
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52							53		54				
55	56	57				58		59			60	61	62
63					64						65		
66					67						68		
69					70						71		

Down

- 1. 'Mamma Mia' Swedes
- 2. Wet Beatles song?
- 3. Allmans '___ Wastin' Time No More'
- 4. They 'Let It Ride' (abbr)
- 5. Berkeley homework
- 6. Allman Bros spinoff Gov't ___
- 7. 'When You Say Nothing ___'
- 31. Allmans "Might be your man, ___ know"
- 32. He shoots for the stars?
- 33. Chiffons '___ Fine'
- 36. 'Situation' synthpop band
- 39. Paparazzi will do this
- 41. 'Bleed' Hot Chelle ___
- 44. 'I Hear You Calling' punks
- 46. Cure '___ Me'
- 49. Jason Mraz 'Waiting For My

R&R answer from pg 36 of 1/11

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

Jonesin' answer from pg 35 of 1/11

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

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

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle C

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Confessions of a Prairie Bitch: How I Survived Nellie Oleson and Learned to Love Being Hated*, by Alison Arngim, born Jan. 18, 1962.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *I took a short nap and ate a peach. Keep it simple.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Gladys was the Wyatt Earp of hairdressing. My hair gave up in terror and curled. Everyone needs a Gladys.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *My other favorite class was 'office service,' a totally useless class where we learned to operate all manner of completely out-of-date office machinery.... That's how I met my friend Gertrude. Useless class, nice friend.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *The Los Angeles County Fair is probably not the first place you'd go if you were seeking to be forgiven of your sins, but I have a tendency to find strange things in strange places. Who knows what you'll find.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *It took just seven working days to film a one-hour episode, maybe ten days if we had to go out of town.... Things happened so fast, before I knew it, several episodes were in the can. And just like that, your work is done.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Essentially she [Melissa Gilbert] came to my house for the sugar and total lack of supervision. Who could blame her? No one!*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Any idiot can be liked. It takes talent to scare the crap out of people. Boo!*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *I had an interior decorator fill the rooms with all this absurdly fancy Queen Anne furniture. I don't know what I was thinking. Best to just move on.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *I don't know exactly who*

screamed at whom, and I can only imagine what epithets were used, but all I know is, we were never denied bathroom privileges again. When you gotta go.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *For the next several days these encounters continued, until it was clear: things were different in France. They didn't hate me here. They loved me. ... Hell, they didn't even think Nellie Oleson was 'mean.' They thought she was French. Bonjour!*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *I admit, Melissa Sue Anderson and I haven't exactly been hanging out together at the beauty parlor getting our nails done, but sometimes I think maybe we should. Now that I'm older, I have a sneaking suspicion we probably have a whole lot more in common than either of us used to think. Could be.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *All our costumes were one-of-a-kind and dry-cleaned at the end of the week. We were given just one duplicate that was the 'stunt dress.' Don't settle for just pockets. Demand a stunt dress.*

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 mushroom (10)	_____
2 mushroom (5)	_____
3 mushroom (7)	_____
4 mushroom (8)	_____
5 mushroom (6)	_____
6 mushroom (6)	_____
7 mushroom (5)	_____

EL	TER	LO	RT	KI
SH	CRE	OB	II	OYS
MI	TON	ENO	TA	NI
MOR	BUT	EL	PO	KE

Last Week's Answers: 1. STAYCATION 2. BRUNCH 3. SPORK 4. CHUNNEL 5. SPANGLISH 6. NETIQUETTE 7. MOTEL

Sudoku Answers from pg 36 of 1/11

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 12/25

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/27

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 12/29



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THE ROLLING STONES TRIBUTE
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FORTUNE
SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 4 | 7:00 P.M.



LOTUS LAND
RUSH TRIBUTE
FEBRUARY 9 & 10 | 8:00 P.M.



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Unconventional Weaponry

The Laconia (New Hampshire) Daily Sun reported on Jan. 5 that police were called to the Market Basket supermarket in Tilton the day before after a “fruity fracas” broke out in the produce section. Social media posts indicated that a watermelon had been used in an assault, and Sgt. Andrew Salmon of the Tilton Police Department confirmed that his department is investigating. Salmon said one person went to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries “from being struck by a produce item.” A worker who answered the phone at the Market Basket said, “We have been instructed not to say anything.”

Awesome!

• King, a rescue dog at the Lost Our Home Pet Rescue in Tempe, Arizona, enjoyed a brief reign among his shelter buddies, Fox10-TV reported on Jan. 11. Sometime around midnight, King managed to break out of his kennel at the shelter and busted out several other dogs. He also found a stash of food and enjoyed a little feast. In the meantime, alarms were triggered; Jodi Polanski, the shelter’s founder, looked at video from the scene and saw the mess. “The police actually came because he set the alarm off,” Polanski said. The

unnamed responding officer cleaned up after King’s free-for-all and got the dog settled back in bed. “I was just like, wow, amazing man that he did that,” Polanski said. The rescue’s website indicates that King is no longer looking for a home.

• Rodney Holbrook, a 75-year-old retired postman from Wales, had been noticing for a couple of months that small messes in his shed were being mysteriously tidied overnight, the BBC reported. So he set up a camera and caught a little mouse picking up pegs, corks, nuts, bolts and bird food. Holbrook aptly named the rodent Welsh Tidy Mouse. “Ninety-nine times out of a hundred the mouse will tidy up throughout the night,” Holbrook said. “I don’t bother to tidy up now, I leave things out of the box and they put it back in its place by morning. I’ve added different things to the desk to see if they can lift it,” he said.

Goals

LuLu Lotus of Mississauga, Ontario, has earned a Guinness World Record for an impressive, if dubious, skill: She blew a 44.1-decibel whistle through her nose. United Press International reported on Jan. 9 that Lotus visited Aercooustics Engineering Ltd. to have her whistle measured in a special room. She said her 5-year-old

son has recently discovered he, too, has a nose-whistling ability: “It would be a dream come true if he beat my record one day,” Lotus said.

High Tech

The story about the Alaska Airlines plane that lost a panel while flying at 16,000 feet is all over the news. But it’s the little human-interest stories that really capture us: When the panel flew off and the hole gaped open midair on Jan. 5, someone’s iPhone got sucked out and landed on a roadside in Washington state, Yahoo! News reported. Sean Bates, who found the phone, posted a photo on X showing the phone’s intact screen and a battery life of 44% remaining: “Pretty clean, no scratches on it, sitting under a bush,” he posted. Jennifer Homendy of the NTSB said all found phones would be returned to their owners.

Inauspicious Award

Kathleen Murray of Sandford, Tasmania, credits bandicoots for helping her win the first-ever World’s Ugliest Lawn competition, The Guardian reported on Jan. 11. The marsupials, Murray said, have “actually liberated me from ever having to mow it again. I’m all for guilt-free weekends, especially since my ex-husband left with

the lawnmower back in 2016.” (That must have been a good-looking Toro!) The contest began as Gotland’s (Sweden) Ugliest Lawn, which was conceived to encourage water-saving and environmentally friendly gardening in 2022. “All of (the lawns) were hideous and well worthy of winning, but the winning entry was really, really bad,” said Gotland’s Mimmi Gibson. “It brings me a lot of joy to see all the little creatures who now feel safe to come out during the day in my yard,” Murray said.

What’s in a Name?

Or a word? Wayne State University in Michigan has announced its 15th annual list of 10 “long-lost” words that should be resurrected, United Press International reported on Jan. 10. The Word Warriors program has identified “blatherskite” (nonsense), “curglaff” (the shock felt upon diving into cold water), “rawgabbit” (a person who speaks confidently but ignorantly), and “pawky” (having a cynical sense of humor), among others. Let’s get together and twankle during our kaffeeklatsch!

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

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