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JANUARY 25 - 31, 2024

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ON THE COVER

10 Surprise, winter is a hot season for music! Michael Witthaus, Hippo's music writer and local music expert, takes a look at the many music series filling schedules this season.



ALSO ON THE COVER We are, issue-date-wise, a mere week away from the beginning of voting in the Best of 2024. Head to hippopress.com at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1, to support your favorite places to eat, beautify, hang out and more. See page 5 for details.

And head to page 14 for another annual tradition, Hippo's Wedding Section. Are you headed down the aisle (or headed toward heading down the aisle)? Here are some things to think about.

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NEWS & NOTES

Pandemic response

House Speaker Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) has announced the formation of the Special Committee on Covid Response Efficacy, a bipartisan group led by Rep. Barbara Comtois of Barnstead, tasked with evaluating New Hampshire's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to a press release, the committee will conduct a science-based review, focusing on the administration of federal guidance, use of federal funds, and vaccination efforts under Emergency Use Authorization. This effort aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the state's pandemic response and its impact on citizens and to inform future public policy for emergency responses, reflecting the House's balanced partisan composition as mandated by House Rule 29.

For the birds!

NH Audubon is calling for public participation in its annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey to be held on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11, aiming to assess winter bird populations in New Hampshire. According to a press release, this call to action follows unusual observations last fall of fewer birds at feeders, a situation NH Audubon attributes to an abundance of natural food and mild weather. Residents can contribute by counting birds in their backyards and reporting their findings online or via a special form. The survey, critical for tracking long-term trends and

potential declines in bird species, values reports of both high and low bird activity. Information and participation details are available at nhaudubon.org.

Licensing bills

Sen. Howard Pearl has introduced two bills, SB 318-FN and SB 486-FN, aimed at easing professional licensing burdens in an effort to attract more workers to the state. According to a press release, the proposed legislation would establish licensure compacts for social workers and physician assistants, allowing for reciprocity with other states and facilitating the process for professionals to move and work in New Hampshire. This move is intended to address worker shortages by removing unnecessary obstacles to employment, especially for military families relocating to the state. By streamlining the licensing process, Sen. Pearl aims to retain current workers and draw new ones to support and provide essential services to the residents of New Hampshire.

Transportation plan

The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has presented its latest NH Transportation Improvement Plan, a biennial process aimed at assessing the state's transportation needs and efficiently allocating available funding for maintenance and improvements, according to a press release. Following 24 public hearings held in collaboration with the Governor's Advisory Commission

on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT), the draft Ten-Year Plan was formulated, incorporating public feedback. Notable features of the plan include funding for congestion mitigation projects, advancements in engineering for critical infrastructure, proactive management of specific corridors and support for community transportation initiatives, reflecting input from the public. Gov. Sununu has forwarded the plan to the Legislature for review and approval, with the final adoption expected in June 2024.

Ed accounts

Rep. Joe Sweeney, the House Majority Floor Leader, introduced House Bill 1561-FN to the House Education Committee, which focuses on expanding eligibility for the Education Freedom Accounts program in New Hampshire. In his statement, Rep. Sweeney emphasized the importance of providing a safe and successful educational experience for all students. Drawing from his personal journey of overcoming speech challenges with the support of Salem public schools, he highlighted the inclusivity and personalized educational pathways that HB 1561 aims to offer. "By endorsing this bill, we reinforce our commitment to enriching our education system and investing in the diverse and promising futures of all Granite State students and families, making certain that no student is disadvantaged due to their specific circumstances," he said in the statement.

The **Portsmouth** Symphony Orchestra (PSO) has announced the opening of its annual Young Artist Competition, inviting high school musicians from New Hampshire and the Seacoast region of Maine and Massachusetts to participate. The competition winner will have the honor of performing a solo concerto, accompanied by the PSO, at the orchestra's final 2024 season mainstage performance on June 12 at The Music Hall in Portsmouth. More information and application details can be found at portsmouthsymphony.org.

The United Way of Greater **Nashua** is orchestrating the 2024 Shoebox Project for Seniors, an initiative designed to assemble and distribute gift kits to low-income isolated seniors in the community. According to a press release, these kits are curated to provide not only practical items such as toothpaste, soap and health products but also comforting items like hot chocolate, tea and puzzle books to spread cheer. With a goal to create 500 kits in collaboration with local senior services, United Way is inviting community members to contribute by purchasing items from a wishlist or making monetary donations by Feb. 1. Donations can be made online or sent to their office at 20 Broad St., Nashua.

The Merrimack Valley Beekeepers Association (MVBA) announces the 2024 Bee School, a comprehensive beekeeping course suitable for all ages and experience levels. Led by experienced beekeepers, this program covers essential beekeeping topics through lectures, presentations, demonstrations and videos, according to a press release. Classes, which begin on Feb. 20, are held on Tuesday evenings, with some online and some in person at St. James United Methodist Church in **Merrimack**. The cost is a membership fee, which is \$40 for individuals and \$50 for families. Visit mvbee.org/bee-school.

CONCORD

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Environmental ed

New Hampshire Environmental Educators (NHEE), a network dedicated to advancing environmental education and literacy, has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to enhance its capacity to promote environmental education and literacy. According to a press release, this funding will support NHEE's mission of fostering a connection to the natural world, environ-

mental literacy and community stewardship. The grant will contribute to the implementation of a strategic plan that includes hiring an administrator, expanding fundraising efforts and diversifying the board of directors. NHEE plans to utilize the grant to update its website, facilitate professional development for board members and cover the day-to-day operational costs of the organization.

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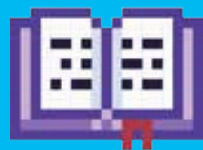
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Feb. 1 - Feb. 29



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Future senator?

'The key is to get involved,' says Central High student

Michael Blair, a senior at Manchester's Central High School, has been chosen for the prestigious U.S. Senate Youth Program. He discussed his leadership roles, aspirations for public service and the anticipated impact of this opportunity on his future in political science and community engagement.

Can you describe your roles and activities at Central High School?

Q: At Central High School, I have several roles. As class president, I like to listen to my classmates' concerns, like the high cost of prom tickets, and work toward solutions. I've also brought in presidential election candidates to speak at



Michael Blair. Courtesy photo.

What inspired you to become involved in programs like the U.S. Senate Youth Program and other leadership activities?

I'm really passionate about helping others, and this passion started in my freshman year with Safe Sports, where I saw the importance of building up our community. As class president, I realized how much I could help just by listening to my peers

and working with school administration to address their concerns and adapt our school to better serve its students. This experience sparked my interest in other programs like the Choose Love program, where I saw a chance to extend my reach and encourage more people. Hearing about the Youth Senate Program, I thought it would be interesting to see how government works, especially in today's polarized environment. I wanted to understand how politicians interact and are treated, then bring back that knowledge to my community to help reduce polarization and work toward a more unified country.

I also lead the 'Faceoff Friends Program' in association with the Choose Love movement, teaching elementary students at our Boys and Girls Club about kindness, gratitude, and choosing love, with a hockey theme. ... Additionally, I serve as the editor-in-chief of the 'Little Green' newspaper, the oldest public high school newspaper in New Hampshire.

and working with school administration to address their concerns and adapt our school to better serve its students. This experience sparked my interest in other programs like the Choose Love program, where I saw a chance to extend my reach and encourage more people. Hearing about the Youth Senate Program, I thought it would be interesting to see how government works, especially in today's polarized environment. I wanted to understand how politicians interact and are treated, then bring back that knowledge to my community to help reduce polarization and work toward a more unified country.

What are your future goals or career aspirations?

I definitely want to go to college ... Where college will take me is something I'll have to see, but I am interested in going into political science. Maybe in a few years, I'll find myself in Congress or in some role within politics. For me, politics is the way I feel I can best help people and reach as many as possible.

What is the U.S. Senate Youth Program, and how were you selected to be a part of it?

The U.S. Senate Youth Program is a two-part initiative. The first part includes a scholarship, which is fantastic. The more exciting part for me is the opportunity it provides to visit Washington, D.C., and get an in-depth look at how our government functions. It's a chance to interact with politicians we usually see on TV and really understand the workings of the government. ... As for my selection, it began with my principal nominating me from my school. The process involved an initial application round where I submitted several essays along with a recommendation. After advancing from that round, I participated in an interview round with a select group of students from my state. Following our interviews, a council decided that myself and one other student from New Hampshire were the best fits for the program.

What advice would you give to other students who are interested in leadership or public service?

The key is to get involved. ... The biggest thing is to engage in extracurriculars and clubs that build up our community, which is crucial for anyone wanting to be a leader. You can't be a leader just by pointing out what needs to change; you need to be actively involved in these groups, making the change happen. So my best advice is to get involved in a variety of clubs, learn from these experiences, and then use what you've learned to advocate for positive change within your communities and beyond. —

Angie Sykeny

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The week that was



The Big Story – NFL Championship Weekend:

The Sunday when the NFC and AFC championships are played is the best sports day of the year. And that's what

we've got coming Sunday, when defending champion KC led by football's best QB (Pat Mahomes) takes on Baltimore and the best running QB (and likely MVP) Lamar Jackson in Game 1, followed by a rematch of the famed 1957 NFL special playoff game (finally) between the 49ers and Lions to determine who'd represent the Western Conference in the '57 title game vs Cleveland. Which, oh by the way, is the last time the Lions were NFL champs. Can't wait.

Sports 101: Name the two players who've scored the most TD's in NFL playoff history.

News Item – Mahomes on the Road: Amazingly Sunday in Buffalo was the first time he had ever played on the road in the playoffs during his entire six-year career. Though a heartbreaker for the Bills, it was actually lucky number 50 for him. As it was his 39th overall road win to make his road winning percentage of 78 percent the best career for any QB in NFL history.

News Item – The New Philly Phold: In Philadelphia it's hard to top the famed Philie Phanatic (which turns 60 this year), when their baseball team blew a 6½-game lead in the final week of 1964 after not being out of first place even one day the entire season. But by going from 10-1 to finish 11-6 and getting smoked by mediocre Tampa Bay in the Wild Card round, the Eagle collapse may have done just that.

News Item – Chip Kelly Hot Topic: The rumor mill is cranking overtime this time of year in the NFL. One interesting item has the local lad and current UCLA head coach on the wish lists of several teams with openings to be their offensive coordinator.

News Item – Jaylen Brown: When he is bad he is often beyond belief awful bad, Exhibit A being his impossible to forget elimination Game 7 disaster at home vs. the Miami Heat. This time it was Friday's battle of 2024 NBA titans with Denver when:

- (1) he was 1 for 9 from three-point land,
- (2) had two lay-ups blocked from behind because he eased up instead of dunking it like he needed to and usually does,
- (3) down 1 with a minute to go, he clanged two free fouls in a game they lost 102-100,
- (4) he stepped into the lane 2 seconds early on a missed Aaron Gordon FT with 17 seconds left to take away a crucial rebound from Boston in lieu of a jump ball that

resulted, and

(5) he was one of several guys toasted by Jamal Murray on his way to his killer 35-point night.

The Numbers:

10 – most all-time playoff meetings between two teams in NFL history, which came Saturday when SF won a 24-21 thriller over Green Bay.

16 – after getting two more vs. Buffalo, times Mahomes and tight end Travis Kelce have hooked up for TD's in the playoffs to pass the Tom Brady–Rob Gronkowski combo for most in NFL history.

... Of the Week Awards

Funniest Super Bowl-Worthy Commercial – Uber Eats: Seeing iconic British actress Helen Mirren sitting on a sofa watching playoff action eating cheese balls just delivered by Uber Eats as she yells, "a Jets sweep on third and 11 — YOU IDIOTS!" before throwing the cheese balls at the TV. Very funny.

Why Can't We Get Guys Like That Award – Nelson Agholor: He may have been a disappointment in Foxboro, but after he scored the Ravens' first TD in their 31-10 win over Houston they loved him in Baltimore.

Thumbs Up – Dan Campbell: He's gone from over-the-top gung-ho nut who'll last two years tops as head coach in Detroit to a guy who's somehow done the impossible, transforming the eternally awful Lions into the Cinderella story of the NFL.

Sports 101 Answer: With 22 Jerry Rice has scored the most playoff TD's in history. Emmitt Smith and Thurman Thomas are next with 21.

A Little History – 1957 NFL Championship Game: Hard to believe, but the Lions were Patriots-like in the 1950s NFL, winning 3 times. The last was in 1957 behind backup QB Tobin Rote (also the QB for San Diego as they demolished the Pats 51-10 in the 1963 AFL title game) with swaggering Hall of Famer Bobby Layne lost for the season. First by bringing them back from down 24-3 to a 31-27 win over SF. Then Detroit crushed Cleveland 59-14 as Rote threw four TD passes and ran for another to avenge a similar 56-10 beatdown by the Browns in the 1954 Championship game.

Final Thought – Predictions:

49ers-Lions: SF should win, but being the hopeless romantic I am, I'm pulling for the upset by upstart Detroit 34-31. I know, dumb. But that's my story.

Chiefs-Ravens: Another titanic QB battle. I'll take Mahomes over Jackson until he proves me wrong. Final-minute 24-23 KC win.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

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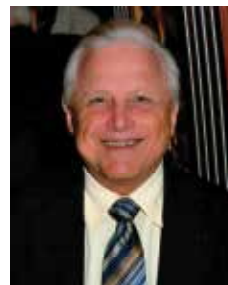
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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

We're #1!

In a comprehensive report by Retirement Living, New Hampshire has been ranked the best state for retirement in 2024. This accolade comes as part of a detailed analysis of various factors critical to retirees, including cost of living, quality of life, and health care. The state's appeal is bolstered by its tax benefits — no tax on income, estate, or sales — and the availability of year-round activities. Retirees make up 20% of New Hampshire's population, and they enjoy discounts on tourist attractions. The ranking is based on a Retirement Living Score, derived from a survey of more than 1,075 people age 55 and older, alongside government data from sources like the U.S. Census Bureau and FBI. The report aims to guide individuals considering relocation for their retirement, highlighting the importance of factors like retirement taxes, access to health care and overall affordability in making such a decision.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *This is the second consecutive year that New Hampshire has taken the spot in the study.*

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The recent changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) have wide-reaching implications, particularly for students in New Hampshire, NHPR reported. The simplified FAFSA, featuring just 36 questions instead of the previous 108, has altered the aid formula, shifting from the expected family contribution to the student aid index as the metric for calculating a student's ability to pay for college. This change benefits New Hampshire students, with approximately 12,000 more becoming eligible for Pell Grants and over 24,000 qualifying for the maximum grant amount.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *Additionally, a new state law now mandates high school seniors in New Hampshire to complete a FAFSA or opt out through a waiver, a policy expected to increase competition rates for eligible students, aligning with trends seen in other states with similar requirements.*



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Now I can find my texts!

Last weekend, texts from QOL's dad and other real people were lost in a sea of desperate pleas that QOL Vote For Whomever! or take someone's survey. Any real phone calls QOL got were ignored along with the flood of calls from one presumes candidates or something, who knows, because QOL stopped answering. According to a WMUR report from Jan. 22, some people who did answer their phone heard what sounded like (but wasn't) the voice of President Joe Biden telling them not to vote on Tuesday and the NH attorney general is now investigating those calls. But, hark! With the primary now over (hopefully, as of press time on the morning of Jan. 23), we can all look forward to finding our real texts, answering our phones and getting our precious magazines from the mailbox without wading through election stuff.

QOL score: +1 (-1 for the fake phone calls but +2 for, hopefully, an overall lessening of calls and texts)

Comment: *At least until mid October.*

QOL score: 49
Net change: +3
QOL this week: 52

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at adiaz@hippypress.com.

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

JANUARY 25 AND BEYOND

Friday, Jan. 26

It's comedy night at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusichall.com) featuring Kenny Rogerson, Jody Sloane and David Lamb. The show starts at 8 p.m.; tickets cost \$22. Find more comedy this weekend and beyond in the Comedy This Week listings on page 41.



Allan? Check out the 21+ *Barbie* movie trivia night tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's Cinema Pub in Manchester (707 Huse Road, chunkys.com). For a closer look at trivia nights, check out the Jan. 11 cover story (go to hippopress.com and look for the e-edition). For more trivia events this week, see page 42.

Date Night in the Pottery Studio at Studio 550 Arts Center (550 Elm St. in Manchester; 232-5597, 550arts.com) tonight at 6 p.m. The class runs about an hour and a half and participants get a basic pottery lesson and then can make their own creations, according to the website, where you can sign up.

com, where you can see videos of the company's performances). The show is part of the William H. Gile Concert Series, so tickets are free, but go online to reserve seats. 🎵



Thursday, Jan. 25

Drum Tao, a show with costumes and staging highlighting Japanese Taiko drums, will be at the Capitol Center for the Arts Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com), today at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$44 through \$76. See drum-tao.com/en for a look at the performance.

turing floral arrangements paired with art, today at Kimball Jenkins Estate (266 N. Main St. in Concord). The show will be on display today 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. The show is just one of the events happening during Concord's Winter Fest; find more in the story on page 23.

Friday, Jan. 26

Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) will host an artist talk with photographer **Gary Samson** from 5:45 to 7 p.m. The event is free but reserve a spot via EventBrite (find a link on Mosaic's Facebook page). See garysamsonphotography.com for more on Samson and his work.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

See the professional dance company **Step Afrika!** today at 7 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com).

Save the Date! Sunday, March 10

Team Police takes on Team Fire, for a good cause, on Sunday, March 10, at 1 p.m. at the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St. in Manchester; snhuarena.com) at the **Battle of the Badges Hockey Championship** presented by the Elliot Perry Foundation (elliotperry.org) to raise money for Dartmouth Health's Children's. See childrens.dartmouth-health.org/events for more on the event and to purchase tickets which cost \$16 (plus fees) for ages 6 and up. On the day, tickets will cost \$20.

Thursday, Jan. 25

The Concord Garden Club and local artists kick off the annual "Art & Bloom," the show fea-

Thursday, Jan. 25

Do you know your Midge and

Saturday, Jan. 27

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Michelle Ouellette, MD, FACC, FSCAI



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Sat, Feb 17

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

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Robert Capodilupo, MD, FACC



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WARM UP WITH COOL TUNES

A LOOK AT THE WINTER MUSIC SERIES HEATING UP THE LOCAL SCENE



Jordan Quinn. Courtesy photo.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

With sunny gazebo concerts hovering between distant memory and faint promise, live music has moved indoors for the coming months. Fortunately a lot of venues are stepping up, most with original artists in unique settings like wineries, brewpubs, museums and apres-ski shows.

Here's a look at a few places using music to help shake winter's chill.

Flying Goose Brewpub & Grille

The Flying Goose Brewpub & Grille is home to New Hampshire's longest-running listening room series.

"It started in 1993 or 1994," Tom Pirozzoli, who founded it and played its first show, said recently. "I approached my old friend Tom Mills with the idea ... after having released a new CD."

In the late '80s Pirozzoli ran a similar effort in Keene at a place called Chalkboard West, doing booking, sound and occasionally performing. The contacts he made there helped to get the Flying Goose effort off the ground.

Every year from autumn to early spring it hosts the cream of New England's folk and

roots scene.

"We try to mix some new acts in each year and also stay true to our longtime friends like Tom Rush, David Mallett and Aztec Two Step," Pirozzoli said.

Among the performers in the current series is Lucy Kaplansky, who's taking a quick break from the successful *On a Winter's Night* tour with fellow folk singers John Gorka, Cliff Eberhart and Patty Larkin (who's also appearing this year). Kaplansky, whose most recent album is 2022's *Last Days of Summer*, is a returning favorite of the series.

"I'm always so happy to play there," Kaplansky said by phone from her home in New York City. "The audience is great and people come no matter what the weather is like — one time, it was literally 20 below. Tom does a great job with the sound, the staff is super nice, the food is great. It's a wonderful gig."

Flying Goose Brewpub & Grille (40 Andover Road, New London, flyinggoose.com)

Thursday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. — New England Bluegrass Band

Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. — Mark Erelli

Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m. — Ari Hest

Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. — Lucy

Kaplansky

Thursday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. — Patty Larkin

Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. — David Francey

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. — Ordinary Elephant

Thursday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. — Garnet Rogers

Currier Museum of Art

The Currier Museum of Art is a longtime friend of live music, with its Thursday After Work concerts a prime example. While those are on seasonal hiatus and will be back in the spring, there are currently regular Sunday performances in the museum's Winter Garden restaurant.

Majed Sabri, the Currier's Digital Operations Manager, said in a recent phone interview that the museum tends to re-book musicians who connect with the brunch crowd, adding that the performers share a common thread.

"They're local, and we're always about uplifting local talent," he said. "They all have a really great vibe; we don't want to have an overpowering sound, and they're really good at being beautiful background music. People ask to have them back."

Currier Museum (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org)

Sunday, Jan. 28, 11 a.m. — Mac Holmes

Sunday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m. — Joey Clark (plays harmonica too), alt country

Sunday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. — Seth Connolly, original rock and blues, very talented guitarist

Sunday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m. — Mac Holmes

Sunday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. — Joey Clark (tentative)

Sunday, March 3, 11 a.m. — Joey Clark

Sunday, March 10, 11 a.m. — Seth Connolly

Sunday, March 17, 11 a.m. — Mac Holmes

Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m. — Harry Borch

Hermit Woods Winery

Musician Katie Dobbins launched the Songwriter RoundUp Series at Hermit Woods Winery a year ago. Happening the final Wednesday of the month, each show features Dobbins and two other artists doing original material in a classic "song pull" format. The evening ends with all three joining together for a cover, anything from Sara Bareilles to The Band's "The Weight."

Sometimes the guests are people she's worked with in the past, like Brooks Young, who'll be at the Feb. 28 event. Other times a performer is one that Dobbins knows by reputation and wants to work with.

"I spend a lot of time... trying to cultivate a bill of folks that will complement each other and make a really special evening," Dobbins said from her home in the Lakes Region. "A lot of times it's our first time meeting each other, so you never know quite what's going to happen. But it's always been really fun."

With great sound and sightlines, along with a small capacity, the winery provides an intimate, artist-centric space. Working for an audience that's completely focused on music "matters a lot," Dobbins said. "Bar gigs are fun too; there's a place for them in their own way, but there is something really special about getting away from that."

Hermit Woods Winery (72 Main St., Meredith, hermitwoods.com)

(tickets \$10 to \$15 at eventbrite.com)

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. — Katie Dobbins, Dan Fallon & Dylan Patrick Ward

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. — Katie Dobbins, Brooks Young & Tim Winchester

Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m. — Katie Dobbins, Sam Luke Chase & Jay Psaros

Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m. — Katie Dobbins, Jeanette & Marlena Phillips

Pats Peak Ski Area

Après-ski action at Henniker's Pats Peak resort includes Irish-flavored acoustic group The McMurphys stopping in frequently. This year the big news is Mon-



Justin Cohn, Katie Dobbins, Holly Furlone. Courtesy photo.



Ian Galipeau. Courtesy photo.



Brooks Young. Courtesy photo.

keys With Hammers: guitarist Chris Lester (Sully Erna, Mama Kicks), drummer Eric Wagley and bass player Rich Knox who'll play a one-off reunion show on Saturday, March 2.

Pats Peak Ski Area (686 Flanders Road, Henniker, patspeak.com)

- Saturday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. – Kimayo
- Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. – The McMurphys
- Saturday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. – The 603s
- Saturday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. – The McMurphys
- Saturday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. – April Cushman Trio
- Saturday, March 2, 6 p.m. – Monkeys With Hammers
- Saturday, March 9, 6 p.m. – River Sang Wild
- Sunday, March 10, 6 p.m. – Supernothing
- Saturday, March 16, 6 p.m. – Tyler Levs
- Saturday, March 23, 6 p.m. – Andrea Paquin
- Saturday, March 30, 6 p.m. – The McMurphys

Bank of NH Stage

The Capitol Center for the Arts hosts a recurring afternoon series at its Cantin Room, located upstairs in their Bank of NH Stage's lounge. The event is curated by NH Music Collective.

"We focus on local performers who often don't get a chance to see their name up in lights on Main Street," NHMC's John McArthur said recently. "The audiences and performers love that everyone is there to listen. It's a beautiful way for performers to closely connect with their fans without distractions."

Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, ccanh.com)

- Sunday, Feb. 4 – Heather Pierson Duo
- Sunday, March 3 – Alex Preston
- Sunday, April 7 – Senie Hunt
- Sunday, May 5 – Run Like Thieves (EP release)

Nippo Lake Golf Club & Restaurant

Acoustic music fans delight in the Nippo Lake Bluegrass Series, which lasts from October through April. The long-running event features some of the region's finest players and over the years has grown into a Sunday evening tradition.

Nippo Lake Golf Club & Restaurant (88 Stagecoach Road, Barrington - nippobluegrass.com)

- Sunday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m. – She Gone
- Sunday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m. – New England Bluegrass Band
- Sunday, Feb. 18, 6 p.m. – Chicken Shack
- Sunday, Feb. 25, 6 p.m. – Lunch at the Dump
- Sunday, March 3, 6 p.m. – Cedar Mountain
- Sunday, March 10, 6 p.m. – High Range
- Sunday, March 24, 6 p.m. – Unsung Heroes
- Sunday, April 7, 6 p.m. – Cordwood
- Sunday, April 14, 6 p.m. – Wide Open Spaces
- Sunday, April 21, 6 p.m. – Old Hat

The Livery

NH Music Collective's monthly events at Sunapee's Livery land on a number of goals, including dinner and fundraising along with music. Upcoming beneficiaries include Full Circle Farm Therapeutic Riding Program and The Newport Recreation Program.

"Through business sponsorships we can bring both local and national touring acts to this intimate 100-seat venue in an historic building," NHMC's McArthur said, noting that *American Idol* favorite Alex Preston is among the performers appearing in coming months.

The Livery in Sunapee Harbor (58 Main St., Sunapee, thelivery.org)

- Saturday, Feb. 17 – Slim Volume
- Sunday, March 17 – JD and the

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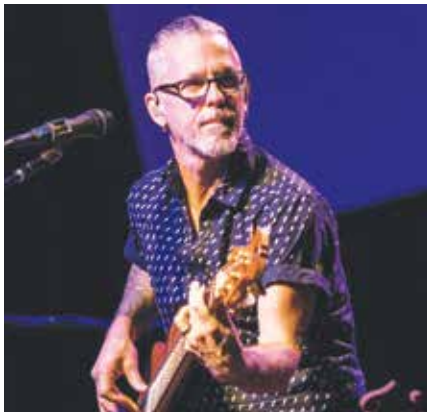
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Sap House Meadery

The NHMC ticketed series at Sap House Meadery offers dinner and music in a bucolic setting. “We curate a very eclectic program that has included international and regional music from Ukraine, Brazil, Cuba, Quebec, India, Ireland, Scotland, Appalachia and West Africa,” NHMC’s McArthur said, calling the varying cuisines “perfect complements to the performances.”



Chris Lester. Photo by Trixie’s Tilted Tripod.



Senie Hunt. Courtesy photo.

Sap House Meadery (6 Folsom Road, Ossipee, saphousemeadery.com)

Thursday, Feb. 15 – David Hamburger
Thursday, March 14 – Jud Caswell
Thursday, April 18 – Senie Hunt

More winter music series

Front Four Cellars (13 Railroad Ave., Wolfeboro, frontfourcellars.com)

Jan. 26, 5 p.m. – Garrett Smith
Jan. 27, 5 p.m. – Jordan Quinn
Feb. 17, 5 p.m. – Eric Lindberg
Feb. 23, 5 p.m. – Garrett Smith
Feb. 24, 5 p.m. – Chris Lester
March 9, 5 p.m. – Cat Faulkner Duo
March 16, 5 p.m. – Ian Galipeau
March 22, 5 p.m. – Garrett Smith
March 23, 5 p.m. – Mikey G
March 30, 5 p.m. – Tyler Levs



Joey Clark. Courtesy photo.

Gunstock Ski Resort (719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, gunstock.com)

Saturday Series – 3 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 10 – Rhys Chalmers
Saturday, Feb. 17 – Arlene Wow!
Saturday, Feb. 24 – Garrett Smith
Saturday, March 2 – B Man
Saturday, March 9 – Paul Warnick
Saturday, March 16 – Arlene Wow!
Saturday, March 23 – Garrett Smith
Saturday, March 30 – Rhys Chalmers
Saturday, April 6 – B Man (Après Annual Pond Skim event)

Crotched Mountain Resort (615 Frankestown Road, Bennington, crotchedmtn.com)

Friday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m. – The 603s
Saturday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. – Chris Lester
Saturday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m. – Eyes of Age
Friday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m. – River Sang Wild
Saturday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. – Tyler Levs
Saturday, March 9, 6 p.m. – Eric Lindberg Band
Saturday, March 16, 6 p.m. – Kimayo

Salt Hill Pub Shanty (1407 Route 103, Newbury, salthillpub.com)

Acoustic Lift Ticket Series
Saturday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. – Ted Mortimer
Saturday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. – Rob Erwin
Saturday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m. – Dustin Marshall
Saturday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. – Kim Wilcox
Saturday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. – The Frogz
Saturday, March 2, 6 p.m. – Don Dawson



Lucy Kaplansky. Courtesy photo.

Saturday, March 9, 6 p.m. – Rhys Chalmers
Saturday, March 6, 6 p.m. – Ted Mortimer
Saturday, March 23, 6 p.m. – Adam McMahon
Saturday, March 30, 6 p.m. – Kim Wilcox

Goosefeathers Pub at Mt. Sunapee Ski Resort (1398 Route 103, Newbury, mountsunapee.com)

Saturday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m. – Ariel Strasser & Ken Budka
Sunday, Jan. 28, 3 p.m. – Alex Cohen
Saturday, Feb. 3, 3 p.m. – Kimayo
Sunday, Feb. 4, 3 p.m. – Mikey G
Saturday, Feb. 10, 3 p.m. – Dave Clark
Sunday, Feb. 11, 3 p.m. – April Cushman Duo
Saturday, Feb. 17, 3 p.m. – Josh Foster
Sunday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m. – Garrett Smith
Saturday, Feb. 24, 3 p.m. – Colin Herlihy
Sunday, Feb. 25, 3 p.m. – Danny McCarthy
Saturday, March 2, 3 p.m. – Tom Boisse
Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m. – The 603s
Saturday, March 9, 3 p.m. – Tyler Levs
Sunday, March 10, 3 p.m. – Chris Lester
Saturday, March 16, 3 p.m. – Ryan Williamson
Sunday, March 17, 3 p.m. – April Cushman Band
Saturday, March 23, 3 p.m. – Kimayo
Sunday, March 24, 3 p.m. – 93 North

Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market (Eagle Square, Concord, down-

townconcordwinterfarmersmarket.com)
Saturday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to noon – Rebecca Turmel
Saturday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to noon – Andrew North
Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to noon – Doug Farrell
Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m. to noon – Eyes of Age
Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to noon – Hank Osborne
Saturday, March 3, 9 a.m. to noon – Ryan Williamson

Lithermans Limited Brewery (126 Hall St., Suite B, Concord, lithermans.beer)

Thursday, Jan. 25, 5:30 p.m. – Mikey G
Thursday, Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m. – Tom Boisse
Thursday, Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m. – Ryan Williamson
Thursday, Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m. – Charlie Chronopoulos
Thursday, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m. – Alex Cohen
Thursday, Feb. 29, 5:30 p.m. – Dave Clark
Thursday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. – Chris Lester
Thursday, March 14, 5:30 p.m. – Ken Budka
Thursday, March 21, 5:30 p.m. – Josh Foster
Thursday, March 28, 5:30 p.m. – The hArt of Sound

Contoocook Farmers Market (Maple Street Elementary School, 194 Maple St., Hopkinton)

Saturday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. to noon – Taylor Marie
Saturday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to noon – Hank Osborne
Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m. to noon – Mary Fagan
Saturday, Feb. 17, 9 a.m. to noon – Ryan Williamson
Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to noon – Ian Galipeau
Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m. to noon – Cat Faulkner Duo
Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m. to noon – Brad Myrick
Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. to noon – Rebecca Turmel
Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m. to noon – Paul Gormley
Saturday, March 30, 9 a.m. to noon – Scott King
Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m. to noon – Paul Driscoll
Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to noon – Joey Clark 🍷

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Hiring a Professional

There's a lot more to nuptials than saying "I do."

In fact, there are so many moving parts that it might make sense for you to hire someone to help out — or several someones. Here's a look at some of the available professional services to help take some of the stress out of planning and putting on a wedding. Why not simply enjoy your day?



Planning services

Wedding planners are hired to look at the big picture, making sure everything works in concert as your wedding day unfolds. In some cases, you may be able to break apart their responsibilities, but others don't offer a la carte options. They want to make sure it all unfolds flawlessly. During your initial consultation meeting, you'll discuss personal expectations, their available packages,

and information on coordinating during your actual wedding day.

Don't worry about a venue if you hire a wedding planner. They will listen carefully to your explanation and then select a series of possible facilities to meet your criteria. Once your big

day arrives, the wedding planner will then take control of every aspect of the wedding event. They'll hire and manage vendors, as needed, while providing directions to guests and your wedding party.

Photographer

You're going to want lots of documentation from this special event. Don't rely on friends and family to get the best photos. Make sure a professional photographer is on hand to capture the

quality images you'll keep with you for a lifetime. Ask for referrals before hiring someone, ask people in your circle about their experiences, and look over examples of their previous wedding assignments. Then create a detailed plan based on how the event will unfold, and what you are looking for from the pre-wedding activities and reception.

Florist

You want to get the most out of the bounty of spring, so splurge on an expert in floral arrangements. A florist will help create centerpieces, fun accents and your bouquets, adding pops of color and intrigue. When you meet, explain your expectations and color palette in as much detail as

possible. This is a particularly important hire if you have booked a destination wedding, since you're likely unfamiliar with the local varieties and when they are at their peak.



Spring Wedding Necessities

Spring offers its own natural beauty.

Blossoming flowers complete the gorgeous setting, adding pops of color and fresh scents to your special day. But no spring wedding would be complete without a few other necessities. Here's a look:



Fresh style looks

The warmer weather opens up all sorts of style options for fashionable brides. Make sure your look matches the moments with soft colors and lightweight material so friends and family can enjoy the nuptials in comfort. Choosing the bridesmaids' dresses can be particularly fun this time of year, with lots of options in shades of the same color.

Outdoor dancing

Look for venues with space for outdoor dancing, so you can celebrate your new union in the warmth of a starry night. Setting all of this up can add another layer of logistical issues, considering you'll need both power and lights. Discuss where the band or DJ will need to set up, and ensure the facility has everything needed. Of course, the best venues are old pros at this and will have a detailed plan ready to share. Be sure to update them on the number of guests who are expected to ensure there's room for everyone.

Hydration station

Everyone is bound to be thirsty after the ceremony, and particularly after cutting a rug for a while at the reception. Be sure there are plenty of drinks on hand to quench their thirst, both non-alcoholic and alcoholic.

Spring is the perfect time for eye-catching libations, from lemonade and margaritas to iced tea and fruity drinks. Ask about clear glass pitchers to show everything off. If the venue can accommodate it, consider making separate stations for different kinds of drinks.

Light desserts

Don't forget that desserts are about more than the wedding cake. Take advantage of the opportunity to wow your guests by bringing the same level of creativity to the final course of the evening. Besides a wedding cake that's bound to be beautiful and delicious, create something that makes use of in-season fruits and berries to garnish colorful cookies and pies. Your decorator can complete the look with centerpieces based on similar colors. Spring-themed cakes are always a hit, and you can also have lots of fun with cupcakes. Top it all off with a champagne toast. What better way to celebrate such a huge occasion?

Take it Outside

There's something special about an outdoor wedding, especially if you're planning a gorgeous, romantic destination event.

But even if you are planning on having your nuptials in the backyard, there are certain benchmark elements that you'll need to have in place to pull it all off. Here's a checklist to make your spring outdoor wedding a stress-free success:



be communicated, whether that's a group text, a Facebook event page, wedding website or online meeting space. Vendors, guests, friends and members of the wedding party should be able to quickly and easily get in contact if they have questions or concerns. This will become particularly important if there is a major change in plans, but can be helpful in even small situations — such as when someone is running late.

If you don't hire a wedding planner, designate a family member or friend to monitor the agreed-upon communication hub.

Communication plan

There needs to be a central communication hub so that check-ins and changes can

CONTINUED ON PG 18 ▶

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Wedding Favors

Wedding favors are your way of saying thank you to everyone who was a part of your special event.

The average cost of these gifts, according to The Knot wedding website, is several hundred dollars. Still, that's worth it. They let guests know that you care, while providing them with a small special memory of their own from the big day. Here are a few gift ideas:



Go green

Giving plants as a wedding favor is hip and eco-friendly, and they're especially attractive if your wedding is being held in an outdoor setting. Match with local flora or fauna, and you're literally allowing your friends and family to take a piece of your wedding home with them. Once it's home, their plant will become a living memory. Succulents are on trend, and also easy to care for. Stop by a local nursery to ask for specifics, keeping in mind that some native plants may not transfer well when brought back home.

Get going

Destination weddings offer a great opportunity to match the event with a travel theme. Pick fun items like luggage tags, maps and travel snacks, then arrange them in attractive totes. Or go hyper-local, giving your guests things that are only found in the area where you're getting married. That might be a special food, handmade good, or

art object. Having a beach wedding? Don't forget the sunscreen!

Time to indulge

Trendy items this year include coffee mugs and miniature candles. For the more offbeat, consider heart-shaped tea bags or mini-pizza cutters. Edible wedding favors like small chocolates, jars of honey or cupcakes can both surprise and delight. If you're already indulging in plenty of flowers, add floral-inspired lollipops in flavors like champagne and roses, lemon and thyme, and rosemary and mint. One memorable offering even has seeds infused into the sticks, so they can be planted afterward.

Fun and games

Add flair with personalized items like napkins, plastic cups, shot glasses, wine glass charms and miniature bottles of liquor, beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages with your names and the wedding date. Other personalized options include koozies, matchboxes, playing cards and mugs which can be made with messages, names, dates or even pictures. Everyone can enjoy them right away at the reception, or bring things home as a special memento from your nuptials.



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A New Take on Dairy

Wine and cheese may have long been staples at weddings, but cheese is now having its own moment.

Wedding celebrations are now including everything from upscale charcuterie and exciting cheesecake options to comfort foods like macaroni and cheese and grilled cheese sandwiches. Here's how to join this growing trend:

Boards and wines

Charcuterie is a French word that originally referred to preparing meats, particularly pork, and then presenting them in a variety of ways. Today, the selection and variety of ingredients have wildly expanded. Ham, sausages, bacon or confit can be paired with complementary cheeses, jams, fruits or nuts of your choosing. Create your own unique charcuterie boards or enticing spreads on a main table, or smaller versions at individual seating areas, so everyone can join in the cheesy fun. They're attractive and often cost-efficient.

Consider hiring a sommelier, or wine expert, if the budget allows. They'll know just which libation matches with the unique flavor combinations you've created on these charcuterie boards. Ideally, there will be a variety of choices in both whites and reds, so everyone can enjoy the evening. Some couples also choose to pair all of this with craft beer, to add a modern twist.

Comfort foods

Grilled cheese sandwiches and macaroni and cheese aren't just easy home-cooked meals anymore. Caterers are increasingly including these warm, cheesy delights as part of their wedding reception offerings, but with more polished culinary twists, of



course. Nutty Gruyere, gooey fontina and sharp cheddar jazz up mini-bite sandwiches and spreads. Macaroni and cheese is also being elevated, with inviting new cheese choices and fun pasta shapes. Try cavatappi, penne or rotini. Then dive into Swiss, blue cheese, creamy Alfredo or Gruyere-based sauces. Top it all off with pancetta or crispy bacon, diced tomatoes (particularly welcome if it gets a little too warm at your spring wedding), spicy jalapenos, fresh broccoli or chopped herbs.

After dinner

The multi-tiered wedding cake still rules in all of its confectionery glory. But cheese is elbowing its way to the table too in the form of exciting cheesecake options or cheeses matched with sweets like fresh fruit.

Cheese and fruit are a great alternative if the spouses-to-be or guests are going low-carb or gluten-free.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 15

Know the rules

Be aware of local noise and crowd regulations. There may be local statutes or venue guidelines when it comes to how loudly and how long a band or DJ can play music.

You also need to make sure you don't block traffic, or create other issues for people who live in or are traveling through the area. Make sure you know where and when people are allowed to park. You don't want to end up with unforeseen issues with neighbors or business owners because of overflow traffic.

If you're worried about having enough space for all of your guests to park, contact nearby churches or schools — and then direct people there.

Alternate location

The biggest risk with outdoor events of any kind, of course, is bad weather. Your wedding will be planned out months in advance, meaning there's no way to check the forecast for rain. Create a backup plan just in case. Tour suitable alternate venues or look for outdoor sites that have nearby buildings so everything can be quickly transferred.

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This newly constructed venue provides sweeping views of a meticulously manicured golf course and surrounding landscape. Offering an outdoor ceremony area—the garden arbor on the hill—a picturesque spot to exchange vows. In case of inclement weather, there are indoor options available.

Their professional wedding planner is available to assist you with every aspect from start to finish. The in-house chef is skilled in crafting delectable menus using the finest, freshest ingredients.

The Pembroke Pines Country Club team is eager to host you and your guests on your special day.



An exceptional setting to commemorate your unique love story



ARTS

A decade of rhythm

Dancing Queens salutes ABBA — and more

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

There are a few things to know before heading out to see the Palace Theatre's latest musical extravaganza, *Dancing Queens — The Ultimate ABBA & Disco Tribute*, running through Feb 11. First, a bit of '70s finery, like white bell bottoms or a mohair fedora, will definitely heighten the mood, and glitter's not a wrong touch either. Second, patrons should come prepared to dance, with swaying arms held high, and a Palace-provided glow stick in hand.

Finally, as the title implies, the evening doesn't just center on the Swedish pop sensation, though every important song is represented, along with a few nuggets like "Thank You for the Music." The show is also about the musical craze that made ABBA's ascension possible, from Donna Summer to two dance floor numbers still vying for the title of the genre's all-time best, "Disco Inferno" and "I Will Survive."

ABBA is a winning formula for the Pal-

ace, which staged *Mamma Mia!* in 2021 — for the second time. *Dancing Queens* differs from the Broadway musical. Conceived and directed by the venue's Creative Director Carl Rajotte, it has no storyline, just joyous songs performed by co-lead singers Michelle Rajotte, Militia Vox and Sydney Phipps. There's also a lot of dancing, by duos and well-choreographed ensembles.

Rajotte, the director's younger sister, played Donna in both Palace *Mamma Mia!* productions, while the other two singers are newcomers to the Palace stage. Phipps last performed with the Lancaster, Pennsylvania-based American Music Theatre, while Vox's credits include a duet with Judas Priest's Rob Halford and tours with *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Rock of Ages*.

Vox shines in both the Gloria Gaynor "I Will Survive" segment and the three-song Diana Ross tribute.

"I really wanted Militia for the cast," Director Rajotte said the Monday after *Dancing Queens*' opening weekend. "I found her voice to be so different from the other two, and it definitely gives a different feel to the music with her metal background."

A house band includes John Tengowski, Jay Walters, Mike Lecuyer, Will Tecia, and backup singers Asia DeShields and Cara Chumbley. They're led by Musical Director GE Enrique on piano, who also sings lead on Rick James' "Super Freak" and the Michael Jackson smash, "Don't



Dancing Queens. Photo by Michael Witthaus.

Stop 'til You Get Enough."

Featured dancers include two American Music Theatre alums, Andy Kastrati, who recently served as Show Captain there, and Missy Clayton, who's also performed in several Palace shows, as has Brad Weatherford, another *Mamma Mia!* cast member. Dancers Dilyn McCarthy, Rachel Muhleisen, Rose Meyers and Savannah Enoch are Palace newcomers.

Wardrobe, designed by Jessica Moryl, is another show highlight; most cast members are changing outfits 25 times over the course of the evening. Moryl served as Rajotte's assistant for many years before moving to Washington, D.C., where her husband leads a military band, "but she still flies out to design our costumes," Rajotte said.

Although *Dancing Queens* is the Palace's third bite of the ABBA apple, enthusiasm for the group hasn't abated. If anything, social media has spread their music across generations. That's what prompted Rajotte to revisit it, but this time

with some additional musical context.

"ABBA's music is really mainstream again," he said. "I think it's social media, TikTok and other platforms used by influencers. That's why I wanted to do it."

When the opening night show on Jan. 19 was peppered with dressed up 50- and 60-somethings, Rajotte wondered if three more weekend shows would be similar. They were.

"All ages came, and everyone was just as loud," he said. "It's a hit in that way and that was the goal, appeal to the crowd that grew up with it, and with new fans."

Mindful that the bands' fans are a pretty dedicated bunch, the show maintains a four-to-one ABBA-to-disco ratio.

"I'd love to do just a disco show, and that may yet happen — even those hits are becoming mainstream for this generation," Rajotte said. "But people are coming to see ABBA, and the disco hits are a little extra. So it's made for their music." 🍷

Dancing Queens - The Ultimate ABBA & Disco Tribute

When: Fridays, 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, 2 p.m., through Feb. 11

Where: The Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester

Tickets: \$28 and up at palacetheatre.org

Art

Events

• **GARY SAMSON** On Friday, Jan. 26, Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) will host an artist

talk with Gary Samson, filmmaker and photographer, from 5:40 to 7 p.m.

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.

• **"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.

• **"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 Dublin Art Colony and the Hudson River School, according to a press release. The exhibit is on display through Jan. 31. The Co-op is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **"HEART OF A MUSEUM"** at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144) through Feb. 4. In this exhibit, "artist Saya Woolfalk's

commission for the Currier Museum of Art investigates the history of the institution and revisits its iconography and original design. The mosaics adorning the former façade of the Currier (designed by Salvatore Lascari in 1929-1930) constitute the starting point for this new installation by Woolfalk that reimagines the Western art canons singular cultural perspective," the email said. The Currier is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (as well as from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays as part of Art After Work, when admission is free) and admission costs \$20 for adults, \$15 for 65+, \$15 for students, \$5 for ages 13 to 17, and children 12 and under get in free.

• **"FLYING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"** exhibit at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviationmuseumofnh.

BLOSSOMING BEYOND

"Blossoming Beyond: Celebrating Queerness in Nature," 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, is slated to open at the New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn) on Wednesday, Jan. 24, and run through Saturday, March 30. An opening reception will be held Saturday, Jan. 27, from 2 to 5 p.m.



ARTS

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.

• **“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.

Call for art

• **“ALL HEART STATUSES”** described as “an enchanting exhibition that invites you to explore the diverse realms of human emotion” will run at Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) Monday, Feb. 5, through Wednesday, Feb. 28. The submission deadline for the show is Friday, Jan. 26, at 11:59 p.m. See the website for exhibition and submission details.

Workshops and classes

• **ERASER PRINTMAKING** on Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester; 512-6309, mosaicartcollective.com) learn eraser printmaking with Jackie Hanson from 5:45 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$35.

• **TAX WORKSHOP** Queerlective (queerlective.com) will present “Taxes for Artists, Freelanc-

ers, and Creative Businesses with Hannah Cole,” a virtual workshop, on Thursday, Feb. 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. See bit.ly/taxes4artists to register; the workshop is free with a suggested donation of \$15.

Theater

Shows

• **DANCING QUEENS:** The Ultimate ABBA and Disco Tribute 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.

• **IN THE GARDEN OF Z** presented by the New Hampshire Theatre Project (959 Islington St. in Portsmouth, nhtheatreproject.org, 431-6644) through Sunday, Feb. 4, with shows Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. The play “tells the story of a Russian girl’s reaction to the horrors of the war in Ukraine,” according to the press release. Tickets cost \$28 to \$32.

• **I SEE NO ARLECCHINO** The Players’ Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; playersring.org) will present an original multimedia dell’arte 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. Admission costs \$28, \$25 for students and 65+.

• **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 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.

• **CHILDREN OF EDEN** will run

at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; seacoastrep.org, 433-4472), Thursday, Jan. 25, through Sunday, Feb. 25. The website describes the production as “the story of Genesis from Adam and Eve through Noah” and a “compelling blend of theater and tech, where ancient stories meet modern possibilities.” Tickets start at \$37. Shows are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 8 p.m. and Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m.

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

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; ceanh.com) on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$44 through \$76.

• **CANDLELIGHT: THE MUSIC OF HANS ZIMMER** on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). Tickets cost \$43 to \$60.

• **MAHLER’S “RESURRECTION” SYMPHONY** will be presented by the New Hampshire Philharmonic on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 and \$30. The piece will also be performed at the Seifert Performing Arts Center (55 Geremonty Dr. in Salem) on Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. (with a streaming option for the Sunday show). Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$10 for students. See nhphil.org.



SAYA WOOLFALK

There are two more weekends to catch “Heart of a Museum: Saya Woolfalk” at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org, 669-6144). Described as “a new experiential installation by artist Saya Woolfalk, the exhibition is a commission for the museum that investigates the history of the institution and revisits its iconography and original design,” according to the website, which says the exhibition uses the mosaics designed by Salvatore Lascari that were the entrance of the Currier as the starting point. The exhibition is on display through Sunday, Feb. 4. The Currier is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission costs \$20 for adults, \$15 for 65+, \$15 for students, \$5 for ages 13 to 17, and children 12 and under get in free. *Saya Woolfalk, Heart of a Museum, 2023, wallpaper design, Currier Museum of Art.*

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THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Classical by candlelight:** Candlelight Concerts, thea presentation of classical and other musical genres in “a live, multi-sensory musical experience,” will perform Vivaldi’s Four Seasons and more on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). Tickets cost \$43 to \$61. See candlelightexperience.com for more on the concerts.

• **At the music school:** The Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St. in Concord; ccmusicsschool.org) will hold a Purple Finches Youth Chorus open sing on MOonday, Jan. 29, according to a newsletter. The event is free and open to the public. Fledglings (for kids in grades kindergarten through 2nd) meetsmeet at 4:10 p.m., Fliers (for grades 3 to 5) meetsmeet at 5 p.m. and Finches Select (for grades 6 through 8) meet at 6 p.m.

A Canterbury Singers open sing for adults meets on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Find out more about the group and how to join at ccmusic.org/canterbury-singers.

The school’s spring semester of classes begins on Monday, Jan. 29. Go online to see the spring offerings or call 228-1196.

And Slide Guitar 101, a workshop for early intermediate to advanced guitar players interested in the blues, will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 7 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 and the class will provide slides; bring your own guitar. Register online.

In addition to the Bach’s Lunch lecture on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 12:10 p.m., Peggo and Paul (the wife and husband team of Peggo and Paul Hodes) will offer a concert



Cleo Huggins with oyster shells paintings for “Sea Creatures” show at SAA. Courtesy photo.

on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 12:10 p.m. called “Bach’s Lunch: Share the Love Valentine’s Day Concert with Peggo, Paul and Friends.” The event is held in the Recital Hall and is free and open to the public, according to a newsletter.

An Integrated Arts Recital will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. featuring student musicians who will also display visual art they’ve created to go along with the recital, according to a newsletter. The event is free and open to the public.

• **More Paul:** You can also catch the former 2nd District U.S. Congressman Paul Hodes on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at a fundraiser for Gather (a nonprofit providing healthy food to individuals experiencing food insecurity in Seacoast communities), at 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St. in Portsmouth; 3sarts.org), according to a press release. Tickets are pay what you choose starting at \$22. Hodes will play with The Blue Buddha Band, the release said.

• **At the audi:** The Concord Community Concert Association will present the Frisson



“Remembering Popham,” acrylic by Noel Soucy a submission for the exhibit “Let Me Show You What I Love.” Courtesy photo.

Ensemble at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord; theaudi.org) on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. The concert will feature a trio of cello, piano and clarinet, according to the website. Tickets cost \$20 at the door or \$23 online at ccca-audi.org. See frissonensemble.com for a look and listen to Frisson performances.

• **Afternoon of dance:** NSquared Dance Company will present A Continuation of Love, a dance fundraiser with a Valentine’s Day theme, on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 4 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). “This performance is full of vignettes and will treat the audience to the full breadth of the company’s high-caliber dance styles,” said Zackery Betty, Cco-Ffounder of NSquared Dance, in a press release. “It’s also a chance for people to learn more about what we do and the importance of dance within the community as an expressive art form for entertainment and community engagement.” The event will also feature catered food and a silent auction, the release said. Tickets cost \$40. See nhdancecollaborative.org.

• **February at SAA plus a call for art:** “Photos as Canvas,” a show featuring the digital artwork of photographer Dean Scott of Exeter, will open at the Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St. in Exeter; seacoartist.org) on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and run through Sunday, Feb. 25, according to a press release. An artist reception will be held on Friday, Feb. 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. as part of the Second Friday Artwalk and will feature SAA exhibiting artist Cheryl Sager and her hus-

band, Neal Zweig, in a Valentine concert, the release said.

Artists are also welcome to submit artwork for the February Valentine e-themed show “Let Me Show You What I Love,” the release said. Drop-off is Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or at the aAssociation’s website, according to the press release. Attendees at the Second Friday event will vote for a people’s choice award, with the winner receiving a future free month’s entry, the release said. The March theme will be “Shadows and Light” with a drop -off on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The gallery is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Email gallery@seacoartist.org with questions.

Also at SAA, Cleo Huggins’ show of oil paintings “Sea Creatures” will open on Wednesday, Jan. 31, and run through Sunday, Feb. 25. according to a release. Huggins will also be at the artist reception, which will feature a raw bar provided by Huggins and her husband, according to the release.

• **Author event:** Matthew Delmont, author of the new book *Half American: The Heroic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad*, will discuss his book on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St. in Portsmouth; themusichall.org), according to a press release. The event will include author conversation, audience Q&A and a post-show meet and greet, the release said. Tickets cost \$34 and include a signed book. 📖



FOOTLOOSE THE MUSICAL: YOUTH EDITION

Can Ren bring dancing to Bomont? The Majestic Academy of Dramatic Arts (669-7469, majestictheatre.net) presents *Footloose The Musical: Youth Edition* Friday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Derry Opera House (29 West Broadway in Derry). Shows are at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$13 for 65+ and \$10 for youth ages 17 and under. Left

to Right: Chloe Hardy, Kelsey Sweet, Aiden Kilduff, Elise Riendeau, Clare Mitchell, Noah Ramirez. Courtesy photo.



BACH'S LUNCH

The Bach’s Lunch at Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St. in Concord; ccmusicsschool.org) will feature a “Songwriting Lecture with Peggo and Paul” on Thursday, Feb 1, at 12:10 p.m. This husband-and-wife duo (together for 45 years) have collaborated on numerous compositions and recordings, according to a newsletter. Peggo is a classically trained vocalist and Paul plays by ear, the newsletter said. The lecture will include discussion of their composition process along with performances of examples, the newsletter said. Call 228-1196 or visit ccmusicsschool.org/event/bachs-lunch-songwriting-2024.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Winter Fest in downtown Concord

Puppies prepared, pond hockey postponed

By Mya Blanchard
listings@hippopress.com

Not all the festival fun has to be reserved for summer. Ice sculptures, curling, telescope viewings, a beer garden, puppies and more will be at the Concord Winter Fest from Friday, Jan. 26, to Sunday, Jan. 28, presented by Intown Concord in partnership with The Hotel Concord.

“This is our sixth year,” said Jessica Martin, the director of Intown Concord. “It started [during] The Hotel Concord grand opening and we partnered with them and it’s just gained momentum.”

While the festival is usually scheduled to coincide with the Black Ice Pond Hockey tournament, weather has caused the tournament to be rescheduled the past few years, and this year is no exception, with the postponement dates being Friday, Feb.

9, through Sunday, Feb. 11.

Nonetheless, there will be plenty to do around the downtown area with a free shuttle sponsored by Concord Area Transit on Saturday. Festivities start with the Art & Bloom exhibition at Kimball Jenkins, presented by the Concord Garden Club. While the opening reception is on Thursday, Jan. 25, the dates coinciding with the festival are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibition features works of art accompanied by floral designs created by the community, Concord Garden Club members and professional designers.

Other happenings over the course of the festival include free wine tastings at Wine on Main, *Singin’ in the Rain* at Red River Theatre, telescope viewing at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center, a doggie meet and greet with Darbster Rescue, Snow-ga with blossom yoga, and an ice carving competition and viewing.

“We’re going to have a judging panel that will judge them but we will also post the photos of them on social media ... for



Previous Winterfest. Courtesy photo.



people to vote on their favorite and then we do ... a people’s choice award,” Martin said.

There will also be vendors, a beer garden and food trucks on Capitol Street on Saturday and Sunday, including Wicked Tasty Food Truck and Bubble Bee Milk Tea. New this year is an outdoor curling rink sponsored by NH Scot on Saturday and a Winterfest Family Dance Party with Mr. Aaron at the Bank of NH Stage on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

“The overall hope is to give peo-

ple something fun to do during a time of year where people are sometimes lacking options for things to do. It’s a little bit of a slower time of year for our downtown on the heels of the holidays, so we want to create something that drives people to the downtown [and] helps get people out there. In addition to the festival we have a great downtown with lots of shops and restaurants for people to enjoy. ... It’s winter, but there’s nothing saying that we can’t be outside.” 🍷

Concord NH Winter Fest

When: 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16, to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28

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PERSONAL TRAINING



ENJOY WHAT YOU LOVE

Don't let the internet fuel your paranoid imagination



By Ray Magliozzi

I just watched a movie called Old Dads. In the movie, four guys get fired from their jobs because of a conversation they had while driving a rental car for work. The conversation was recorded by the rental company and turned over to their boss, who subsequently fired them for violating a clause in their contract.

In searching online, I found articles saying there's some truth to it. So, my questions are: Is this not an invasion of privacy? Is the rental agency obligated to inform the renter?

I'm sure you guys can think of other questions or information about "spy cameras" in rental vehicles. Thanks. — Bill

Bill, you know the stuff that they had to shovel off city streets back when people traveled by horses? Well, that's what this story is.

I remember when the internet first emerged, thinking that it could be a great educational tool for all mankind — providing all the world's knowledge at everyone's fingertips. Instead, it provides all the world's

Dear Car Talk:

I just watched a movie called Old Dads. In the movie, four guys get fired from their jobs because of a conversation they had while driving a rental car for work. The conversation was recorded by the rental company and turned over to their boss, who subsequently fired them for violating a clause in their contract.

In searching online, I found articles saying there's some truth to it. So, my questions are: Is this not an invasion of privacy? Is the rental agency obligated to inform the renter?

I'm sure you guys can think of other questions or information about "spy cameras" in rental vehicles. Thanks. — Bill

Bill, you know the stuff that they had to shovel off city streets back when people traveled by horses? Well, that's what this story is.

I remember when the internet first emerged, thinking that it could be a great educational tool for all mankind — providing all the world's knowledge at everyone's fingertips. Instead, it provides all the world's

knowledge, along with a forum for every knucklehead with a paranoid imagination to find like-minded knuckleheads and spread nonsense.

OK, let's go back to cars now and leave the philosophizing to Hints from Heloise. There's no truth to this, Bill. If a rental car company secretly recorded a customer, they'd be breaking all kinds of laws, state and federal.

There's no equipment in the car that comes from the manufacturer that would enable a rental car company to do this. And no respectable rental car company would ever install such equipment. There's simply no benefit to the rental car company. And the risks are enormous, from criminal liability to international embarrassment, to the loss of their customers.

So, rest assured, Bill, whatever you were talking about in your last rental car, neither your boss, nor — maybe more importantly — your spouse, has a recording of it. As long as that snoopy Alexa wasn't listening.

Dear Car Talk:

My 12-year-old Prius V hybrid makes a loud rattling sound when I start the car and then when I accelerate. It does go away after

driving awhile.

The Toyota dealer has said that it is because the car is switching from EV to gasoline engine mode. Is this normal? Is there a way to get rid of the rattle? People on the street can hear it!

Thank you for your help. — Jane

Well, I'll give you two answers, Jane: a happy answer and a sad answer.

The sad answer is that you could have a leaky head gasket. That could make your gasoline engine run rough at first. And a rough-running engine will make everything around it rattle.

That would be sad, indeed, especially for your bank account. But I don't think that's what's going on. It's more likely that the noise is coming from your exhaust system.

All gas-powered cars have catalytic converters. And because those converters get red hot, each one has a heat shield around it — top and bottom. The heat shield is just a thin sheet of metal mounted a few centimeters away from the converter itself.

It's there to prevent you from setting your car on fire if you park over some tall grass or a pile of dried leaves. Although a fire would definitely solve your rattle problem, Jane.

Anyway, as cars get older — and your

12-year-old Prius qualifies — the rivets that hold the heat shield in place can fail or corrode. When that happens, that thin sheet of metal will vibrate — against the converter itself or whatever it used to be attached to. That causes — what? — a buzzing or rattling sound.

And as the metal parts heat up, they expand and touch each other, and that often causes the rattle to stop after you've been driving a while. But it'll always be most noticeable when you start the car first thing in the morning, when everything is cold.

If it's not the heat shield, another part of the exhaust system could behave the same way. If you have a broken exhaust hanger, for instance, that could also allow the exhaust pipe to rattle against the undercarriage, especially when the car is cold.

So, I'd leave the car with your mechanic overnight. If he starts it when it's ice-cold, he'll hear the rattle. And he'll know instantly whether it's an engine noise or an exhaust noise.

If he sends you flowers and a card, you'll know it's not an exhaust noise. Good luck, Jane.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🍌



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Jody Reese
Hippo Publisher



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KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Kids watching kids on stage

• So fetch! The Palace Youth Theatre, featuring performers in grades 2 through 12, will present *Mean Girls Jr.* at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org, 668-5588) on 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.

• Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St. in Concord; ccmusicschool.org) will hold a **student recital and puppetry performance** on Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public but seating is limited, according to a newsletter.

• The Majestic Academy (majestictheatre.net) will present *Footloose The Musical Youth Edition* at the Derry Opera House (29 W Broadway in Derry) on Friday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 to \$15.

Family gametime

• Play **Theater Candy Bingo** at Chunky's Cinema Pub (chunkys.com) this weekend. On Friday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m., the Manchester location (707 Huse Road) hosts a game. On Saturday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 p.m., Pelham (150 Bridge St.) hosts the game. For either game, reserve a seat for \$10 per person, which gets you a \$5 food



voucher, a bingo card and a box of candy that goes into the pot, according to the website. The event lasts about an hour and a half with a goal of getting in about eight rounds, the website said.

Classic family film

• *Singin' in the Rain* (1952) will screen at Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org) on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10 a.m. Tickets cost \$10. The event coincides with Concord's Winterfest this weekend. For more family fun at this event, see the story on page 23.

• Celebrate 85 years of the yellow brick road, ruby slippers and flying monkeys at a **screening of *The Wizard of Oz*** (1939) presented by Fathom Events. Catch the movie Sunday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m. at AMC Londonderry, Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem, O'neil Cinemas in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington and also at 7 p.m. at AMC Londonderry and Regal Fox Run; on Monday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. at all of those theaters and on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. at AMC Londonderry, Cinemark and Regal Fox Run. 🍿

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,
I have three of these toys, all metal and marked Tootsietoy on the bottom. This one is in the best used condition. It's about 5 inches long. Can you share a value with me?
Thank you, Donna.
Bob



Dear Bob,
The Tootsietoy company was located in Chicago, Illinois. It's been around since the 1920s. They produced diecast toys (metal poured into molds, then other parts added).

Not only did they make toy cars, tractors, etc.; they made a great line of doll house furniture in metal as well. It has an interesting history to read up on.

The value of your 1930s trailer truck should be in the \$50 range to collectors in that condition. Don't disregard the other two either, Bob. Parts of one can be used on another, so collectors will buy used, broken

toys as well.

I hope this helps, Bob, and thanks for sharing.

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

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ON THE JOB

MICHAEL J. WHITE PARTY RENTAL OPERATOR

Michael J. White owns Studios2go, a unique mobile party rental company based in Rochester.

Q: Explain your job and what it entails.
Studios2go is a party rental company. We provide fun and unique activities for birthdays, festivals, school events, church events, team building events, summer camps and more. ... We offer a variety of activities for all ages, including a video game truck, nerf and gellyball package, foam parties and inflatable carnival game package.

What led you to this career field and your current job?
About seven years ago I was working full-time as a firefighter/paramedic in Maine. Like most firefighters I was looking for a side gig... One of the guys in my department told me he saw these 'video game trailers' down south and said it may be something I would like because I am a big gamer. I immediately loved this idea and my coworker was able to build the game truck for me. Seven years later here we are.

How long have you had this job?
I am going on my 7th year with Studios2go.

What kind of education or training did you need?

Besides having to learn how to back up and drive a trailer, I didn't need any specific type of education. I have spent many hours ... [learning] how to run a business properly, the legal aspects of owning a business, how to set up a website and how to market a business.



Michael J. White. Courtesy photo.

is only sustainable for so long.

What do you wish other people knew about your job?
That it is as fun as it seems.

What was the first job you ever had?
The first job I ever had was as a dishwasher at a pizza restaurant when I was 15.

What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?
Normal business uniform is just a polo shirt and shorts or pants.

What is the most challenging thing about your work, and how do you deal with it?
The toughest part of the job is the work-life balance. Parties and events are mostly on the weekends, making it hard to make plans with family and friends who work a standard Monday-through-Friday job. ... I have established a family day each week that I will never book an event on and is strictly for time with friends and family.

What's the best piece of work-related advice you've ever received?
The best piece of advice I ever received was from another party rental operator who said, 'Don't apologize for your prices, ever. Know what your time is worth and what your company is worth. Focus on providing a quality product and experience. You won't always get everyone's business and that's OK.' — Angie Sykeny 🍕

Five favorites

Favorite book: The Stormlight Archive series or really anything by Brandon Sanderson
Favorite movie: The Lord of the Rings
Favorite music: Imagine Dragons
Favorite food: Pizza (Sometimes I wonder if I'm only in this job for all the free pizza.)
Favorite thing about NH: No income tax



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FOOD

Taste of Bedford raises funds for DECA

High school nonprofit hosts event with eateries

By Jill Lessard
food@hippopress.com

News from the local food scene

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

• **Wine season:** If you're used to pairing January with a wine tasting, Wentworth by the Sea (588 Wentworth Road in New Castle; opalcollection.com/wentworth) is holding its annual Winter Wine Festival with events scheduled into mid-February. Grand vintners' dinners are scheduled with Far Niente Family of Wineries and Vineyards (Saturday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m.), Jackson Family Wines (Saturday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m.) and Raymond Vineyards (Saturday, Feb. 10, at 6 p.m.). Flight nights run Mondays through Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. in the lounge and offer the opportunity to taste and compare three different wines, the website said. The Bubbles & Jazz Brunch runs Sundays through Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a different prosecco as the focus each Sunday. And on Friday, Feb. 9, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. the Wentworth will feature the second of two big tastings, with tickets costing \$91.07 for an evening with food, a wide selection of wines to try in a walk-around event and live jazz, according to the website, where you can find pricing and details for all events.

• **Big reds for cold nights:** WineNot Boutique (25 Main St. in Nashua; winenotboutique.com, 204-5569) has a few red wine tasting events on the schedule. As of earlier this week, tickets were still available for the blind tasting of malbec wines on Thursday, Jan. 25, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$40. Try seven malbecs, paired with cheeses, salumi and chocolate, according to the website. On Thursday, Feb. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m., the focus will be "Tasting of Big and Bold Winter Wines." Sam- 29 ▶

If you like to eat, then Taste of Bedford is where you and your appetite will want to be on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Bedford High School Commons, 47 Nashua Road in Bedford. The food-filled fundraiser, featuring numerous area eateries, benefits DECA, a nonprofit organization that prepares youth to be academically ready, community-oriented, professionally responsible and experienced leaders. Admission for the food fest is \$15 for individuals, \$45 for a family of four, or \$60 for a family of five.

"Taste of Bedford is a great fundraiser for our students because it enables the community to come out and taste food from different restaurants all at the same time," said Betsy Doyle, a business teacher and six-year faculty advisor for Bedford High School's DECA.

"Participating restaurants serve samples of a selection of their cuisine," Doyle said, so "it is an easy way to have dinner for a family taken care of." The icing on the cake? "They sometimes also hand out coupons to encourage attendees to try out their business."

According to Doyle, last year's Taste of Bedford was very successful in promoting new businesses that weren't even around in 2020 or 2019.

A Taste of Bedford

When: Tuesday, Jan. 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Bedford High School, 47 Nashua Road, Bedford

Admission: individuals \$15; family of four \$45; family of five \$60

Visit: sites.google.com/bedfordnhk12.net/bedford-taste-of-bedford/home

Joining the culinary celebration this year will be Alas de Frida, serving authentic Mexican food; Ben & Jerry's ice cream; Carly's Custom Cakes, offering pastries; El Rincon Zacatecano Taqueria; Hannaford Supermarkets; Lighthouse Local, home to dozens of local vendors and artisans who prepare everything from sweet to savory baked goods and delicatessen delights; Sweet Ginger, whose Thai cuisine includes a variety of vegetarian options; Taj India, dishes from mild to hot; The Inside Scoop, specializing in ice cream and other frozen desserts; Thousand Crane, known for Chinese and Japanese cuisine, including high-quality fresh sushi, and more.

"The Bedford High School DECA club members sell tickets to the Taste of Bedford event," Doyle said. "All of the ticket sales get attributed to the individual student who sold the tickets, and those funds reduce their own expenses for future competitions."

An international nonprofit career and technical student organization, DECA has more than 224,000 members throughout the United States. The Bedford High School group is one of the largest chapters in New Hampshire.

DECA's mission is to prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs by holding business competitions that assess business knowledge and presentation abilities and emulate atmospheres like those of professional business conferences. Students compete through business exams, case studies, interviews and sales presentations. After competing at the New Hampshire level, winning students move on to DECA's International Career Development Conference, a global competition held at major metropolitan areas across



Taste of Bedford from previous year. Courtesy photo.

the United States.

"The students gain valuable experience in organizing the event and recruiting the businesses to participate," according to Doyle, one of three faculty advisors for Bedford High School's DECA chapter. "All of the advertisements and publicity is taken care of by the students. The running of the event itself — each is done by a student leader. This year the event is led by Brenda Sacramento Cortes, a junior at BHS. Participating restaurants will have one or two student volunteers that will help them set up, serve and break down and load up after the event concludes."

Aside from giving DECA students real-world hands-on experience with interviewing, problem-solving, and evaluating business situations, Doyle is gratified by her involvement in Taste of Bedford. "My favorite part of the event is seeing the community come together to see what the students are doing. We often have a very high level of participation from our own faculty and staff ... and the DECA students love to see them and their families at the event." 🍷

Nice to be young

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IN THE KITCHEN

WITH RYAN LEWIS

It was always special for Ryan Lewis, general manager at Napoletana Pizzeria & Bar, when his family would go out to eat at restaurants when he was a child. At home he loved to make food for and with his family and experiment with ingredients, even if the result wasn't always successful. Despite his love for cooking and restaurants, he didn't consider a career in food service until he got a job at his favorite local spot while in college where he developed skills and enjoyed the work.

What is your must-have kitchen item?

I've never really been into gadgets. A clean, organized workspace is really the only thing a chef needs. I train my cooks to fold their kitchen towels when their prep is done. The cook with the largest, neatest stack of towels is unfailingly the best prepared for service on any particular shift

What would you have for your last meal?

The term last meal reminds me of someone on death row — when else would I know I was eating my last meal? That being the case, I would want to make as big a mess as possible when they give me the juice, like a spicy burrito and a couple beers.

What is your favorite local eatery?

Napoletana is my favorite restaurant. It continues to get closer to my vision over time. Of the other 300+ restaurants in the Portsmouth area, I enjoy Green Elephant, Lexi's Joint, Barrio and Ore Nell's most.

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

Celebrity is relative. I have fed many 'famous' people over the years. Were it possible, I would love to see Tony Bourdain and hear his thoughts and suggestions. Even just to be in his presence would be something. Jose Andres and Eric Ripert are other heroes, using their success in their craft to

make life better for others.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

It's kind of an evil question like asking who my favorite employee or family member is. There are things that are unique and those that are pretty pedestrian but well-loved by our guests. Today I ate our hanger steak and it made me pretty happy. It is a unique cut of meat that takes care to butcher properly, and our risotto rosso is a somewhat unusual but fitting accompaniment to it.

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

I have no idea. We, as an industry and community, are still coming back to life after the struggles of the past several years. It is encouraging to see green shoots sprouting here and there. Young entrepreneurs opening new concepts and getting traction; those are the people to watch.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

Jambalaya. It's almost as versatile as pizza as far as the number of stylistic twists and permutations. That said, I make it 95 percent the same way every time. I like to load my bowl with hot sauce until my eyes sweat.

—Mya Blanchard 🍷

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 28

ple 15 wines paired with cheeses and a light appetizer; tickets cost \$20, the website said.

- **Italian wines:** Colby Hill Inn's The Grazing Room (33 The Oaks in Henniker; colbyhillinn.com) will hold a five-course dinner paired with Italian wines from Regal Imports on Friday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. The cost is \$100 per person, according to the website.

- **Market Saturday:** The Milford NH Indoor Farmers Market will hold the 4th of its seven planned winter markets this Saturday, Jan. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium (1 Union Sq. on the Oval). The duo Speed the Plough is slated to perform; see milfordnhfarmersmar-

ket.com for a listing of vendors and guest vendors.

- **Dinner, dancing, animals:** OK, animals won't be at the event but proceeds from the Snowball Gala 2024 go to equipment and animal needs at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill in Bedford (theeducationalfarm.org). The event will be held Saturday, Feb. 17, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Bedford Village Inn (2 Olde Bedford Way in Bedford) and will include dinner, dancing, and a silent and live auction, according to the EventBrite page. Tickets cost \$125; a \$175 VIP ticket includes a drink, 10 raffle tickets and a swag bag. See the farm's website for a link to purchase tickets. 🍷

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Irish Coffee

If you listen to Irish Coffee Enthusiasts, you will be taken aback by how complicated the process for making one is. The ICEs will go on at some length about how such-and-such a bar makes a pretty good Irish Coffee, considering it isn't a *real* Irish Coffee. Apparently, an Irish Coffee isn't legitimately authentic unless:

(1) it is made by an old, gnarled bartender with an actual Irish accent and a list of stories about growing up in a thatched hut.

(2) who pours the whiskey from an otherwise unmarked jug with three Xs on it,

(3) into a mug with coffee so strong, vaporous little ghosts float screaming from it as he stirs it

(4) while three or four drunk guys at the bar sing "Danny Boy" and weep openly.

The truth of the matter is that making good Irish Coffee isn't particularly difficult, and it's definitely not complicated. It is simply a matter of paying attention to details.



Irish Coffee. Photo by John Fladd.

and dairy, and whiskey, and something else — maybe destiny. It will take a great deal of adult restraint to not pound this down far too quickly and then make another. And conceivably many more.

For that reason, here is your guide for drinking good Irish Coffee:

Drink it at brunch. The very best time to drink Irish Coffee is late on a cold, damp afternoon, while reading a good book and thinking of a lost love. Unfortunately, by the time you're old enough to have any really juicy regrets, you won't be able to drink coffee that late in the day. Drinking more than one of these in an afternoon or evening will give you more opportunity to reminisce than you were really looking for. Flipping through old photographs and crying at 2 in the morning is not compatible with your New Year's resolution to be more productive.

If you decide to dive into the Irish Coffee pool with a bunch of friends on a Sunday morning, your boyfriend or Carlos, your Uber driver, can get you home in time to sleep it off before you have to Skype your parents that evening.

1 mug of Irish Coffee: You will feel more positive about life.

2 mugs: You will tell at least one of your friends how much you love them. At this point, your wife or friends should keep you away from Facebook.

3 mugs: There will be singing and uncontrollable laughter.

After this, you will probably forgo the coffee and drink directly from the bottle. There will be more singing, and probably crying.

After this, things get a little murky.

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



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Oneohtrix Point Never, *Again* (Warp Records)



Recently I had a sudden burst of people messaging me on Facebook, writing hundreds of words berating me as a music snob. I'm really not. I've earned my wings by reviewing so many horrible albums over the years, and lately I've been listening to a ton of old Kiss, which makes me the diametric opposite of a music snob. Music snobs are sick in the head, like the fictional Loudermilk from the same-named Prime show. My wife shot me a "don't you start" after I cursed upon hearing Sam (whom I love for the most part) say he liked Pavement. Pavement sucks so loud it deafens aliens on Alpha Centauri, and so does this dude, Daniel Lopatin, a bleep-and-bloop electronic "experimentalist" who, if he weren't on the crazily pretentious Warp Records label, would be totally un-freaking-known. There are moments of melody here, "remembered from his childhood," but sorry, it's all dumb, intended for wannabe music snobs who are actually music haters. This album can go bake itself in a pie, and don't write me for saying it because I'll just yell right back at you. **F**—Eric W. Saeger 🍷

of catchy, danceable hooks, while "Far Away" tables a Brazilian-inspired tune doused in swing rhythm, a breath of fresh air full of pleasantly surprising moments. There are also three tracks that feature the Marinera style of Peruvian Creole music: an original ("Marinera Jazz"), a traditional ("Palmero Siguyayay") and a medley from Chabuca Granda. For the smartypants out there, there's "Tun tun tun," filled with challenging grooves and rhythms to play, which all these top-notch players handle with relative ease. **A**—Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Afro Peruvian New Trends Orchestra, *Cosmic Synchronicities* (Blue Spiral Records)



This instrumental music project of multi-project artist Corina Bartra is multi-rhythmic and multidimensional, filled with swing and danceable South and Latin American rhythms. Corina Bartra originals, a majestic, Afro-Peruvian Festejo modulating to a swing groove, "Osiris," the exuberant, Amazon-inspired "Ecstasy Green," the moving Landó Ballas "Purple Heart," "Bailan Todas las Razas" and "Ebano Sky" are full of beautiful melodies, exciting and colorful rhythms. "Baila y Goza" modulates between a Cuban Guajira and an Afro-Peruvian Festejo. The Cuban-inspired "Vinilo y Café" and "Latino Blues" are composed

of catchy, danceable hooks, while "Far Away" tables a Brazilian-inspired tune doused in swing rhythm, a breath of fresh air full of pleasantly surprising moments. There are also three tracks that feature the Marinera style of Peruvian Creole music: an original ("Marinera Jazz"), a traditional ("Palmero Siguyayay") and a medley from Chabuca Granda. For the smartypants out there, there's "Tun tun tun," filled with challenging grooves and rhythms to play, which all these top-notch players handle with relative ease. **A**—Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Tons of new rock 'n' roll CDs come out this Friday, Jan. 26, because you demanded it! Holy cats, guys, look at 'em all, where were all these music CDs a month ago, when I had literally nothing to talk about in this space, except for metal albums, metal albums and did I mention metal albums? But those days are gone, at least until next year, when I will once again suck wind in public, praying that King Gizzard And The Lizard Wizard will release some album with a super-long title, comprised of a bunch of nonsense druggie songs that took them two hours to write and record while they were on drugs, so I can fill up half this space with words simply by repeating the title a few times! Yes, but for now I am safe, just look at all these freakin' albums, fam, let's start with a few words about **Ty Segall's** forthcoming new album, *Three Bells!* I know I've written a few thousand words about that guy, but for the life of me I can't remember anything about him or his music. You see, when you've reviewed thousands of CDs over your lifetime, selective amnesia sets in, and every week it feels like you're Drew Barrymore in *50 First Dates*, rediscovering the special or horrible qualities of bands and artistes whose names ring bells but you can't for the life of you remember a gosh darn thing about them, which is usually for the best! Anyway, Whatsisname here is one of those people, so I'm sure this'll be an exercise in disappointment, as I sally on yonder to the YouTube and try to find out what in tar-nation this album is about. OK, the first song on this LP is "My Room," let's run it down, fam. It's sort of Nilsson-ish but really boring and un-tuneful; neo-'70s clap-trap that would probably be borderline OK if the video had a cheap, trippy cartoon to watch, maybe. OK, that's it, Ty Segall everyone, that oughta take care of — wait, wait, come back everyone, the next song on the album is called "Eggman," and it features Whatsisface, dressed as a clown, sitting at a table eating an entire gigantic bowl of eggs! The music is loud and skronky and not completely boring! And plus, a one-man egg-eating contest! I approve of this message!

• You know, faced with a band named **Frank Carter & the Rattlesnakes**, I expected to see a bunch of rib-eating-contest winners from Alabama, but no, this is an English punk band! Predictably, as if I weren't already feeling anxious about that, it turned out Carter was in a band called Pure Love with a guitarist named Jim Carroll, who, it turns out, wasn't the Jim Carroll, you know, the "People Who Died" singer from the 1980s, and yes, I'm so old that I had to do some journalism research whatever work and make sure of that, and now I feel like Rip Van Winkle, I hope you rotten little scamps are all happy. *Dark Rainbow* is the new album from this band, and the single, "Man Of The Hour," is, of course, totally not punk, more like Spandau Ballet, you know, gentle cocktail lounge pop. I have no idea what these people are even doing, honestly.

• Wait a second, it's not-completely-awful emo band **Alkaline Trio**, with a new album, *Blood Hair And Eyeballs!* Huh, maybe it's because of the video, but the title track is OK, if you like Hoobastank etc. You do, right? No? OK, that's OK.

• We'll end the week with Baltimore-based synthpop band **Future Islands**, whose new LP, *People Who Aren't There Anymore*, should be decent, please lord, let me have something nice to say. Wow, the opening track, "The Fight," is cool, the singer sounds like the guy from Elbow, which makes up for the disposable *Fright Night*-soundtrack-style tuneage. It's OK! —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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Religion of Sports, by Gotham Chopra and Joe Levin (Atria, 243 pages)

When Gotham Chopra was growing up near Boston, it was expected that he would follow the path of his famous father, Deepak Chopra, and go into medicine. Instead all young Chopra could think about was sports.

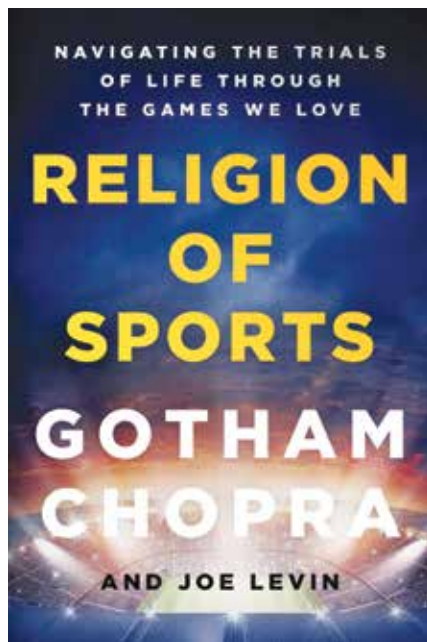
He loved the Red Sox and the Patriots, but he was especially fixated on basketball and got to attend some Celtics games with a friend of his father who had not just season tickets but VIP access to the team because of his donations to the Celtics' foundation. At age 11 Chopra watched Michael Jordan score 63 points at TD Garden, a performance that prompted Larry Bird to say, "That wasn't a basketball player. It's just God disguised as Michael Jordan."

The remark became part of Chopra's growing realization that sports have all the hallmarks of religion. That's an idea that's been around for millennia, but Chopra brings a fresh take to it in *Religion of Sports*, co-written with Joe Levin.

The first team sport involving a ball is believed to have been invented by the Mayans; the games were played near the temples, and the losers were sacrificed to the gods. (See, Patriots Nation, this season could have been much, much worse.) The Greeks saw physical training as a religious act. And Pierre de Coubertin, the Frenchman responsible for the 1896 advent of the modern Olympic Games, wrote, "The first essential characteristic of ancient and modern Olympism alike is that of being a religion."

In Islam, there's a word for the "true believers" — people who live their faith, rather than paying lip service to it, Chopra and Levin write. The *mu'min* exist in sports as well, and they are the players that we ordinary mortals worship, like Tom Brady, Kobe Bryant and Jordan. All this could comprise a high-school essay (and probably has). But what distinguishes *Religion of Sports* from the meh-fest that I'd expected is that Chopra actually knows the people he's writing about; he is a filmmaker who worked with Brady, for example, on the documentaries *Man in the Arena* and *Tom Versus Time*, as well as other athletes including Serena Williams, LeBron James and Simone Biles.

And these are not superficial relationships. Not only has Chopra sat in the Brady family box at Gillette Stadium, but he hung out with Brady in his Brookline house after championship games, and Brady once tossed Chopra the keys to his truck (a Raptor) when he didn't have a



ride home. The anecdotes are rich, especially for fans of Boston teams, and the book is well-researched and surprisingly well-written for the genre.

In chapters that include "Myths," "Transcendence," "Moral Codes" and "Pilgrimage," Chopra and Levin walk through the similarities between traditional religions and what they consider the newest one. Affiliation with other fans, for example, gives us the sense of community that humans have gotten from religious faith; sports likewise offer redemption and deliverance, heaven and hell, curses and miracles, they say.

But, they add, the religion of sports also offers something other faiths don't: "... the gods are flawed human beings like the rest of us" and "anybody, with the right amount of luck and skill, can become a champion."

Each chapter introduces us to one or more of these flawed gods and how they became transcendent. In "Myths," Kathrine Switzer, the first woman to run the Boston Marathon, is center stage. Most people know something of her story: how, as a Syracuse University student in 1967, she registered for the race using the initials K.V. Switzer, having researched the rules and learned that the Boston Athletic Association didn't officially forbid women from running, although no women ever had. She finished, even though the race director tried to pull her off the course just after Mile 4.

Here, her story is told through the prism of religion; for example, we learn that Switzer equated running with religious experience after she started training informally with the Syracuse cross-country team. "Once I got serious and ran over three miles a day, I stopped going

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to church. I realized it was because I felt closer to God and the universe out in nature than I ever did inside with a group of people.”

Now, “Her bib number, 261, has become a sacred good-luck charm for women runners everywhere,” Chopra and Levin write.

Not all of the stories fit the narrative so easily, however. The story of gymnast Simone Biles and how she came to drop out of the Olympics to preserve her mental health is given as an example of reformation, similar to Martin Luther’s start of the Reformation. (“She was turning her back on one of the most foundational beliefs in sports. She was showing that she interpreted the faith differently than we’d become accustomed to.”) The late psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi popularized the concept of “flow,” the state in which we can fully concentrate on activities and perform at peak levels, a state that athletes sometimes call being in “the zone.” Chopra sees this as not just an emotional or mental state but a spiritual one, writing, “It is a feeling that every athlete — *every single one*, from Little Leaguers to Major League all-stars — has

experienced at one time or another.”

Moreover, he argues, sports have a “moral code” that is enforced as strictly as any religion, maybe even more so, by the rules of the games. “Win or lose, opponents shake hands. The lesson: humility. Cheating is never tolerated. The lesson: integrity. Referees enforce the same rules for everybody. The lesson: fairness.”

Again, there’s nothing especially groundbreaking here in the overall message, and the authors veer dangerously close to the land of the cheesy in the final chapter, titled “The Playbook,” which recaps the lessons of the book and invites readers to reflect on questions such as “What is the most magical moment (i.e., miracle) in your team’s history?” and “Which places do your tribe consider to be sacred ground?”) But the book is pleasantly engaging and full of stuff you might otherwise never know — including the fact that a pastor once gave a prayer before the start of a NASCAR game that, among other provocations, gave thanks for his “smokin’ hot wife.”

Religion, in other words, is not nearly as boring as some people think.

B+ —Jennifer Graham

Books

Author events

- **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.
- **JOSEPH W. MCQUAID**, author of *War Fronts Home Fires*, will talk about the book on Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **MATTHEW H. JONES**, author of *Wish I Could Love You: A Collection of Failed Love Stories*, will talk about the book on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m. at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com).
- **LEILA PHILIP**, author of *Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America*, will be at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. for a talk and book signing.
- **ROMANCE AUTHORS** Ali Hazelwood, Nikki Payne and Denise Williams will discuss their novels in an online discussion presented by the Manchester City Library and Tewksbury Public Library on Monday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Register

- via manchesterlibrary.org. For more information call 624-6550, ext. 7620, or email emierswa@manchesternh.gov.
- **MATTHEW F. DELMONT**, author of *Half American*, will be at The Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth) on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. for a discussion and Q&A. Tickets cost \$34 and include a signed book and reserved seat.
- **LISA GARDNER**, author of the new thriller *Still See You Everywhere*, will be at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.
- **OWEN KING** will be at The Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth) on Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m. for a discussion and Q&A about his new novel, *The Curator*. Tickets cost \$34 and include a signed book and reserved seat.
- **CHRIS BOHJALIAN** will be at the BNH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord) on Wednesday, March 27, at 7 p.m. to talk about his latest book, *The Princess of Las Vegas*. Each ticket purchase includes one hardcover copy of the book. Tickets are \$39 for one admission plus one book, \$49 for two admissions plus one book. Buy tickets at ccanh.com.
- **MAGGIE THRASH**, author of *Rainbow Black*, and **MARGOT DOUAIHY**, author of *Blessed Water*, will be at Gib-

son’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. to talk about their novels.

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

- **KEN PERKINS** a New Hampshire pilot who helped bring Charles Lindbergh to Hawaii in 1974 before his death, will be at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviationmuseumofnh.org, 669-4820) “Lindbergh’s Last Flight” on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m.
- **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.



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Napoleon (R)

Joaquin Phoenix has some fun with the hat in the Ridley Scott-directed biopic *Napoleon*.

It's not a practical hat, that big angry taco of a bicorn Napoleon wears, and figuring out what to do with it seems to be part of the "in this scene, I'm feeling..." prep for building the character. Sometimes it falls off, sometimes he yanks it off, sometimes he puts it on top of an Egyptian sarcophagus. The hats are busy in this movie.

Headwear in general is a thing here, from the frizzy hair of a guillotined Marie Antoinette to the Caesar-like golden laurels Napoleon wears as he crowns himself Emperor of France. When he first meets Josephine (Vanessa Kirby), she has the hairdo of an aristocrat about to be beheaded. It's a whole spikey hair thing and she's sporting it at a Survivor's Ball, which I Wikipedia-ed and it is apparently a rich-kid party of people who inherited the fortunes of their Reign of Terror-felled relatives and these events may or may not have actually happened. I did a lot of Wikipedia-ing after (and occasionally during) this movie, which assumes I know a lot more about the French Revolution and its aftermath than I do.

Napoleon distinguishes himself at the siege of Toulon, recapturing a port from the British (who were supporting the Royalists). All flush with victory, he wins over Josephine, who seems like she knows how to pick boyfriends on the come up, and then heads off to I think Italy and Egypt. Going on a prolonged work trip right after getting married isn't great for their relationship — Josephine starts an affair with some handsome young rake. Napoleon returns to France to pout about it — he puts her stuff on the lawn of their house and then they yell at each other for a while — but this visit home also gives him an opportunity to participate in a coup. After getting himself elected as in charge (with the help of some soldiers pointing guns at the representatives doing the electing), he allows himself to be talked into taking a more kingly title to better hang with the other heads of state in Europe. Also, clearly, republican loyalties aside, he wants to be solo ruler. He crowns himself Emperor and crowns Josephine Empress and they live happily ever after for like 10 minutes until he decides that since no amount of sex is leading to a Josephine pregnancy, it's time for him to find a new, more fertile wife. But he also still likes Josephine, who maybe still likes him? I'd say the jury is out, in the way this movie portrays it, as to whether she was ever all that deeply in love with Napoleon or she just liked the proximity to power and doesn't like the humiliation of being set aside.

The movie is all over the place with how it feels about this relationship. On the one



Napoleon

hand, it uses Napoleon's letters to Josephine before, during and after their marriage as a way to narrate both military events and his thoughts and feelings. After their divorce and then later after she dies, the movie seems to indicate that Napoleon is increasingly lost without her.

But the movie also doesn't really seem to care much about their relationship. We don't often see them relate to each other as husband and wife, and her great influence on him is never really explored. *Napoleon's* real interest is in the battle scenes. And they are cool — whether it's a sneak attack on a fortress or an open infantry charge in a snow-covered clearing, the movie is great about building tension and excitement with these battles. There are times when everything that's not a battle feels like just time-killing until we get to the next battle.

There is about an hour of movie after the Napoleon/Josephine divorce and I feel like the movie gets a little more unhinged but also more interesting in that hour. While we get two great Phoenix "Napoleon as angry baby" line readings before this point — him yelling "you think you're so great because you have boats" at a British representative and him snorting that "destiny has brought me this lamb chop" during a dinner fight with Josephine — it's this last hour where he really starts to flail around in his alternative truth world and become more of a compelling character: his "we're winning" statements to his troops while they Eeyore around in the rain at the Battle of Waterloo, his holding forth about his greatness with a group of young boys while he's being held captive. The movie gives us a portrait of a man who, whatever his actual skills and strengths, is being consumed by his ego and his inability to look beyond himself at the objective truths of a situation. Not surprisingly, it's in these moments where Phoenix feels like he has the best handle on what he wants to do with the characters.

At two hours and 38 minutes, it's hard to recommend *Napoleon* for just its weirdo

aspects and lovingly constructed battles. But I'm also not sorry I watched it. C+

Rated R for strong violence, some grisly images (for people who can't take bad stuff happening to animals, be warned that this movie features some real bad days for a lot of horses), sexual content and brief language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Ridley Scott with a screenplay by David Scarpa, Napoleon is two hours and 38 minutes long and distributed by Apple Films, which means that while it is currently available for rent or purchase it will probably eventually be available on Apple TV+.

The Color Purple (PG-13)

The life of Celie Harris gets the all-singing, all-dancing, full Technicolor treatment in the film adaptation of the stage musical *The Color Purple*, based on the Alice Walker novel.

Celie (Phylicia Pearl Mpsasi as a teen, Fantasia Barrino as an adult) and her younger sister Nettie (Halle Berry as a teen, Ciara as an adult) are growing up in the very unhappy home of their father, Alfonso (Deon Cole). A widower since their beloved mother died, Alfonso has been raping Celie for so long that when the story starts she's pregnant with his second child. Though Celie longs to have these children with her, Alfonso "gives them to God" after they're born — with the sisters uncertain of exactly what that means until Celie happens to see a baby girl in town wrapped in a blanket she made. Alfonso basically sells Celie in marriage to Albert Johnson, who calls himself Mister (Colman Domingo), a widower with three small children he doesn't take care of and a house that's a wreck. Mister had wanted Nettie, but Alfonso refused and sort of strong-arms him into taking Celie, who is unwanted for anything other than her labor.

Though she cares for Mister's children and brings order to his home, he is abusive to her and unkind even when they are in bed together, always pining for his mistress, the blues singer Shug Avery (Taraji P.

Henson). When Nettie comes to live with Celie — escaping Alfonso's attempts to rape her — Mister is equally awful to Nettie. He attacks her, she fights him off and he throws her out of the house, thus depriving Celie of the only kind person in her life. Which is perhaps why Celie daydreams about Shug, whose photo is on the table next to their bed. When, years later, Shug comes to town, Celie is just as excited to see her as Mister is.

Though plot descriptions call Shug Mister's mistress and in the movie he makes some statement about how she's the woman he should have married, you don't get the sense that Shug feels at all this way about Mister. He is her extremely occasional fling who she can only stand so much of. As such, she seems to take a shine to (and take the side of) Celie, with the women even ending up at a movie theater enjoying some very sweet makeout time.

Though Celie is besotted with Shug, Shug eventually leaves to continue her music career and Celie remains stuck in her soul-crushing life with Mister, whose family now includes Sofia (Danielle Brooks), wife of Mister's son Harpo (Corey Hawkins). Sofia's take-no-poop attitude very slowly teaches Celie that she can also stand up for herself.

That song is called "Hell No!" and it's peppy and upbeat and features some nifty choreography and the whole sequence is, like so many of the musical sections of this movie, fine. Not objectionable, not spectacular, fine. As with several of the musical numbers, the scene is of the "crowds of people singing and dancing along as a character delivers story information" variety. For me, much more successful were the sequences where the songs and settings were expressing something that Celie was feeling, as though we were going inside her head to see her, for example, falling in love with Shug while she helps to bathe and dress her. These songs, usually more intimate and featuring only Barrino singing, pull us close to the character in a way that is the opposite of the "scene on a big stage" feel of the crowd numbers. While those are pretty to look at they don't offer quite the same charge. The one exception to that is maybe "Miss Celie's Pants," a group song about Celie's pants store (selling some pretty awesome pants, by the way; I will take at least one pair of the red ones Barrino is wearing). Everybody in the scene has a narrative purpose beyond just filling out the stage.

I haven't really sketched out all of the story here or even all of the significant characters. There is so much story packed into this movie that I feel like we're speed-walking from this run-in with the corrupt legal system to that tale of early 20th-century



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colonial oppression in Africa to domestic abuse, picking up speed because we have to get to that long-buried family secret over there before the next big musical number. Which means that nothing feels like it has room to breathe or really leave an impact.

These criticisms aren't a reason not to watch the movie, more an explanation of why I found myself not feeling more enthusiasm as the movie got to its (soulful, moving) conclusion. From the performances — Barriño, Henson and Brooks in particular — to the very lovely cinematography, *The Color Purple* is a movie worth experiencing. **B**

Rated PG-13 for mature thematic content, sexual content, violence and language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Directed by Blitz Bazawule with a screenplay by Marcus Gardley, The Color Purple is two hours and 21 minutes long and distributed by Warner Bros. It is available for rent or purchase.

Past Lives (PG-13)

Childhood friends reunite in their 20s and again in their 30s in *Past Lives*, a charming story about memory and connection.

Twelve-year-olds Na Young (Seung Ah Moon) and Hae Sung (Seung Min Yim) are best friends and sort-of sweethearts in Seoul. Na's mom (Ji Hye Yoon) suggests they go on a "date" — which is more playdate than anything else, with the kids running around a park while the moms watch. As Na's mom explains, the family is emigrating and she wants Na to have some happy memories of her friend in Korea. And then, abruptly, Na says goodbye to Hae Sung after school one day and the family moves to Canada, where she becomes Nora.

Some 12 years later, after Nora (Greta Lee) has moved to New York City and Hae Sung (Teo Yoo) has finished his mandated military service, she discovers a note on the social media page of her father, a filmmaker, from Hae Sung. He's looking for Na Young, his childhood friend. She looks him up and responds. They begin a Skype relationship, talking about their lives and just sort of happy to see each other and the grown people they've become. Neither seems particularly able or willing to cross half the globe to visit the other and soon Nora decides that they need to take a break. She goes to a writers retreat and meets Arthur (John Magaro); we

see Hae Sung meets someone too.

Another 12 years later and Nora and Arthur are married, with Nora attending casting sessions for the play she wrote and Arthur attending readings for his book. They live in New York City and Arthur is trying to learn Korean. Hae Sung comes to New York "for a vacation" — as he tells his friends and Nora tells Arthur. But Arthur, Hae Sung, his friends and maybe even Nora know that he's coming to see her, even though he knows she's married and he has no particular plans for, like, whisking her away.

At one point, Arthur talks about how in a story, Nora and Hae Sung would be lovers fated to be together. They weren't lovers, Nora reminds him, and she's meant to be where she is, in New York, with Arthur. And she means this, and yet it's undeniable that Hae Sung is something to her, he's connected. Maybe not, as Hae Sung says, in this life but in other lives. Their relationship gets to the heart of how people and our connection to them, especially if there's a physical break in the relationship, get all tangled up in who we were when we knew them, where we were in life. Hae Sung is Nora's childhood sweetheart, a boy she liked for a certain set of reasons then, but he is also herself at 12 and her life in Korea and how she felt before emigrating. When she sees him, first in her 20s and later in her 30s, she says a sort of astounded "whoa," which feels like a "whoa" not just at seeing Hae Sung but at seeing that version of herself again. It's some delicate work, getting us to see that story and perspective, but the movie and Greta Lee do a masterful job. There is a sweetness and kindness and sadness between these friends at every point in their lives (so far) and the movie gives both of them their emotional due. Lee and Teo Yoo have excellent chemistry, as do Lee and John Magaro, who have conversations that sound like real things married people might say to each other (a movie/TV rarity).

Past Lives is a soft, bittersweet story that has a joyfulness about it as well. **A**

Rated PG-13 for some strong language, according to the MPA on filmratings.com. Written and directed by Celine Song, Past Lives is an hour and 45 minutes long and distributed by A24. It is available for rent and purchase. 🍷

Film

Thurs., Feb. 1, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.
 • *The Boys in the Boat* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 4:15 p.m.
 • *American Fiction* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 25, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 28, 1, 4 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Jan. 29, through Thursday, Feb. 1, 4 & 7 p.m.
 • *Singin' in the Rain* (1952) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Saturday, Jan. 27, at

10 a.m.
 • *The Stones and Brian Jones* (NR) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Friday, Jan. 26, and Saturday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.; Sunday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m.
 • *Carmen*, The Met: Live in HD broadcast, will screen at Bank of NH Stage in Concord on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 12:55 p.m.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Rising sounds:** Celebrating its 30th anniversary last year, taiko drum group **Drum Tao** continues a world tour with an area stop. The show features traditional Japanese instruments, including the large o-daiko and other drums, shinobue flutes and koto harps, woven with elements of rock, pop and classical music, along with exciting sword fighting performances. Thursday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$44 and up at ccah.com.

• **Sibling tribute:** A multimedia look at Matthew and Gunnar Nelson's father is the focus of **Ricky Nelson Remembered**, including hits like "Hello Mary Lou" and "Garden Party." Friday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 21 Amherst St., Manchester, \$45 and \$55 at palacetheatre.org.

• **Local showcase:** Five regional bands gather under the moniker **January** for an evening of classic rock and original songs. The bill has Eljer P. Sloan playing a brand of music called Super Groovy Werewolf Rock, the new-ish band Burn Permit, SumWat Lucky, Corduroy and Diamond Edge. Saturday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m., American Legion Post 51, Route 125, Epping. See eljerp Sloan.com.

• **Good laughs:** A night of standup features comic triathlete **Dave Rattigan**, who tells jokes, runs the shows and once taught comedy as a college course. Hometown favorite Jay Chanoine offers his humorous brand of cranky consternation, and Kathy Gilmour, who claims she conquered her weight problem with the magic words "I now identify as skinny," rounds out the evening. Saturday, Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m., Murphy's Taproom, 494 Elm St., Manchester, \$20 at eventbrite.com.

• **Rock show:** Before their hit "Cult of Personality" broke on MTV in 1988, **Living Colour** got help from Mick Jagger to get a deal with CBS Records. "It literally took the intervention of the most famous rock star," Vernon Reid, the band's co-founder and guitarist, said a few years ago. Sunday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Angel City Music Hall, 179 Elm St., Manchester, \$30 (\$40 day of show) at ticketweb.com.

NITE

Girl power

Lez Zeppelin plays Manchester

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

With eyes closed, it's hard to distinguish Lez Zeppelin from the act they're honoring. Throbbing rhythm, frenetic lead guitar and ecstatic vocals belie the notion that four musicians are creating this audio juggernaut. Eyes wide open, it is something else entirely; even Jimmy Page couldn't quite believe it.

As the name suggests, the group is an all-female Led Zeppelin doppelgänger. When Zep's guitar legend watched them in London he was an instant fan, praising their "superb musicianship" and "extraordinary sensuality." Post-show, standing with band founder Steph Paynes in an empty arena, Page was blunter.

"He turns and goes, 'it was so *sexual*,'" Paynes recalled by phone recently. "It was almost like watching us, he hadn't even realized ... because he'd never seen Led Zeppelin, he was *in* it. It was this weird, existential moment where he was almost shocked at how sexualized we were, and the music was."

Paynes believes her band couldn't exist without that.

"You're either a sensual being or you're not," she said. "You can learn to act a certain way, but that's not what was happening with Led Zeppelin, [and] playing this music will definitely sexualize you if you're doing it right."

What's remarkable about this she-incarnation is how disciplined they are about Zeppelin's music, not just their look and feel. As with the original, they are a foursome; no looping or technical tricks to add elements, or special guests. This rigor extends to the studio; in 2010, they recreated Zep's 1969 debut album with vintage gear — along with producer Eddie Kramer,



Lez Zeppelin. Photo by Maia Kennedy Photography.

er, who engineered five of Zep's albums, starting with *Led Zeppelin II*.

Recruiting Kramer "was me with an incredibly giant set of cojones," Paynes said with a laugh. "Maybe he'll produce our record, like who does that? It's moxie, you know what I mean? I've been known to have a little bit of that, and it couldn't hurt to ask."

Like Page, who sought the band out because of its reputation, Kramer "thought we could do it; otherwise he wouldn't have done it," Paynes continued. "Look, I think there are lots of people who feel that they're great musicians and they can play all the parts. Guess

what? That's not what this is about."

What it *is* about is essence. "To be at that level of musicianship ... it's daunting," Paynes said, "but [what] underlies it — the feel, the passion, the way you can go into a song and go for it even if you're gonna hit a million wrong notes, which believe me happens; even if you're not gonna get the riff — that is where I think our band differs from all the others."

The latest project for the group — Paynes, singer Marlain Angelides, Joan Chew on bass and keyboards, and drummer Leesa Harrington Squyres — is

tackling landmark concerts. The first was a recreation of Zep's 1970 Royal Albert Hall show in early January.

"Talk about challenging ... they were so incredible in their musicianship and dynamics," Paynes said. "Trying to capture that [is] crazy, but it's so rewarding when you get close."

When Paynes started the band in 2004, "it was just an idea to have fun and really get into the playing," she said, but it took on a life of its own. "The way that it escalated ... you can be in the music business your whole life and none of that could happen, and that's basically the norm, but then if something is meant to be, if it's meant to strike, then everything happens, and you don't even know why."

The current lineup has stayed steady for the past five to six years, though Squyres now has a stand-in due to "physical issues," Paynes said. The temporary drummer signals a departure. "We actually have a guy, Dave Richmond. Leesa is kind of irreplaceable, it's really hard to be John Bonham ... but this guy is completely and utterly into Zeppelin."

Such dedication is still the group's focus.

"It's about capturing the unknown ... the passion, the fury of this music, and the dynamic of it," Paynes said. "Without sounding obnoxious, if you're a good enough musician to understand that you really start to get close to what Zeppelin may have done on any given night. I think that when Jimmy saw us do that in London, he wasn't expecting it. When he saw it, he was just like, 'Yeah, that's it; that's how it should be done. You get it.'"

“Talk about challenging ... they were so incredible in their musicianship and dynamics”

STEPH PAYNES

Lez Zeppelin w/ blindspot

When: Friday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m.
Where: Angel City Music Hall, 179 Elm St. Unit B, Manchester
Tickets: \$25 at ticketweb.com

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay 483-4888 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946
Dockside Restaurant
 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222

Foster's Tavern
 403 Main St., 875-1234

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Bedford
Copper Door
 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677

Murphy's Carriage House
 393 Route 101, 488-5875

Bow
Chen Yang Li
 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508

Brookline
The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar
 99 Route 13, 721-5000

Candia
The Barnyard / Town Cabin Pub
 285 Old Candia Road,

Concord
The Barley House
 132 N. Main St., 228-6363

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana
 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669

Lithermans
 126 Hall St., Unit B

Penuche's Ale House
 16 Bicentennial Square, 228-9833

Tandy's Pub & Grille
 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614

Uno Pizzeria
 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667

Contoocook
Contoocook Farmers Market
 896 Main St., 746-3018

Deerfield
The Lazy Lion
 4 North Road, 463-7374

Derry
Fody's Tavern

Francestown
Toll Booth Tavern
 Crotched Mountain Resort
 740 Second NH Turnpike, 588-1800

Gilford
Patrick's
 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
 25 Main St., 497-8230

Hampton
CR's The Restaurant
 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972

The Goat
 20 L St., 601-6928

L Street Tavern 603
 17 L St., 967-4777

Shane's Texas Pit
 61 High St., 601-7091

Smuttynose Brewing
 105 Towle Farm Road

Wally's Pub
 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954

Whym Craft Pub & Brewery
 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801

Henniker
Pats Peak Sled Pub
 24 Flanders Road
 888-728-7732

Hillsboro
Main Street Grill and Bar
 126 W. Main St., 290-4887

Hooksett
Chantilly's Restaurant & Pub
 1112 Hooksett Road, 625-0012

Hudson
The Bar
 2B Burnham Road

Luk's Bar & Grill
 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900

Lynn's 102 Tavern
 76 Derry Road, 943-7832

Jaffrey
Park Theatre
 19 Main St., 532-9300

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon
 92 Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia
Defiant Records & Craft Beer
 609 Main St., 527-8310

Fratello's
 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

Tower Hill Tavern
 264 Lakeside Ave., 366-9100

Litchfield
Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria
 Mel's Funway Park
 454 Charles Bancroft Highway, 377-7664

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern
 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022

Pipe Dream Brewing
 49 Harvey Road, 404-0751

Stumble Inn
 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

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

Backyard Brewery
 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545

BluAqua
 930 Elm St., 836-3970

Bonfire

950 Elm St., 663-7678

Derryfield Country Club
 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

The Foundry
 50 Commercial St., 836-1925

Fratello's
 155 Dow St., 624-2022

The Goat
 50 Old Granite St.

Great North Aleworks
 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789

Henry J. Sweeney Post
 251 Maple St., 623-9145

The Hill Bar & Grille
 McIntyre Ski Area
 50 Chalet Ct., 622-6159

KC's Rib Shack
 837 Second St., 627-RIBS

Murphy's Taproom
 494 Elm St., 644-3535

Pizza Man
 850 E. Industrial Park Drive, 623-5550

Salona Bar & Grill
 128 Maple St., 624-4020

Shaskeen Pub
 909 Elm St., 625-0246

Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse
 1050 Bicentennial Drive, 625-1730

South Side Tavern
 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947

Stark Brewing Co.
 500 Commercial St., 625-4444

Strange Brew
 88 Market St., 666-4292

To Share Brewing
 720 Union St., 836-6947

Wild Rover
 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722

Meredith Giuseppe's
 312 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-3313

Twin Barns Brewing
 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876

Merrimack Homestead
 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022

Tortilla Flat

Thursday, Jan. 25

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: NKM, 7 p.m.

Bedford
Copper Door: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: open mic with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.

Candia
Town Cabin: Henry LaLiberte, 6 p.m.

Concord
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.
Lithermans: Mikey G, 5:30 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Jamie Martin, 7 p.m.

Epsom
Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: Max Sullivan, 5 p.m.

Gilford
Patrick's: Don Severance and Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: live music, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.
Wally's: open mic night, 8 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's: Mike Forgette, 7 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ

Jason, 7 p.m.

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

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Rob Benton, 7 p.m.

Manchester
BluAqua Restobar: Chris Powers, 8 p.m.
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.
Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: The Sweetbloods, 5:45 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Henry LaLibererte, 5:30 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Kat Ivy, 7 p.m.

Milford
Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
The Press Room: Diaspora Radio Plays "Punisher" by Phoebe Bridgers, 9 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Chad LaMarsh, 5 p.m.

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.
Red's: Ditto, 7 p.m.

Somersworth
Earth Eagle: open mic w/Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.

Tilton
Dox: Caylin Costello, 6 p.m.

Windham
Common Man: Ken Budka, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 26

Alton Bay
Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Foster's Tavern: Henry LaLiberte, 6 p.m.

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Alex Calabrese, 6 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy's: Kat Ivy, 6 p.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Alex Calabrese, 6 p.m.

Music, live and in person

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



DO NOT ADJUST YOUR SPELLCHECK

The bagpipe-led **Red Hot Chili Pipers** have cornered the market on "bag rock," a genre that fuses arena-rock bravura to traditional Scottish instrumentation. Their fiery stage presence has earned them comparisons with a similarly monikered band from Los Angeles. They return to the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) on Friday, Jan. 26, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$39 to \$84, plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479
Milford
The Pasta Loft
 241 Union Square, 672-2270

Riley's Place
 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480

Station 101
 193 Union Square, Station101nh.com

Stonecutters Pub
 63 Union Square, 213-5979

Moultonborough
Bucky's
 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485

Nashua
Casey Magee's Irish Pub
 8 Temple St., 484-7400

Fody's Tavern
 9 Clinton St., 577-9015

Liquid Therapy
 14 Court St., 402-9391

Peddler's Daughter
 48 Main St., 821-7535

San Francisco Kitchen

133 Main St., 886-8833
Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse
 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070

New Boston
Molly's Tavern & Restaurant
 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362

Newbury
Goosefeathers Pub
 Mt. Sunapee Resort, 1298 Route 103

Newmarket
Stone Church
 5 Granite St., 659-7700

Northfield
Boonedoxz Pub
 95 Park St., 717-8267

Northwood
Northwoods Brewing Co.
 1334 First NH Tpk., 942-6400

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

Pittsfield
Over the Moon

1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162
Plaistow
The Nest Pub & Grill
 181 Plaistow Road, 974-1686

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

The Goat
 142 Congress St., 590-4628

Otto
 110 Brewery Ln., 802-6886

Press Room
 77 Daniel St., 431-5186

Thirsty Moose Tap-house
 21 Congress St., 427-8645

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

Salem
Copper Door
 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

Luna Bistro
 254 N. Broadway, 458-

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

Chop Shop Pub
 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706

Red's Kitchen + Tavern
 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030

Somersworth
Earth Eagle North
 350 Route 108, 841-5421

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

Tilton
Dox on Winnisquam
 927 Laconia Road, 527-8381

Windham
Common Man
 88 Range Road, 898-0088

Concord
Hermanos: John Franzosa, 6:30 p.m.

Derry
Fody's: Jake Young Duo, 8 p.m.

Dover
The Brick: Brian Walker, 7 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Redemption Duo, 8 p.m.

Exeter
Sawbelly: The Duo Farrington and Fioretti, 5 p.m.

Francestown
Crotched Mountain: The 603's, 6 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: live music, 5 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Clandestine, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Russ Six, 9 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Wally's: Banana Gun, 9 p.m.
Whym: Dave Clark, 6:30 p.m.

Hillsboro
Main Street Bar & Grill: Chris Voss, 6 p.m.

Hooksett
Chantilly's: Henry LaLiberte, 8 p.m.

Hudson
Luk's: Jimmy D, 7 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon: Dan Fallon, 7:30 p.m.

Laconia
Defiant Records & Craft Beer: Chris Torrey, 5:30 p.m.
Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30

FULL SPECTRUM ROCK



Living Colour has brought rock, funk, heavy metal and jazz together into its own groundbreaking style. Their 40th-anniversary tour brings the band to Angel City Music Hall (179 Elm St., Manchester, 931-3654, angelcitymusic hall.com) on Sunday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$30 to \$40, plus fees.

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



PRESENTS
JANUARY

THUR 25 Candlelight: Vivaldi's Four Seasons & More **6 & 8:30PM**

Ricky Nelson's Legacy continues as Ricky's twins present an interactive, multi-media rock & roll concert experience. **January 26th at 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 Pianos: 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**

GET YOUR TICKETS AT REXTHEATRE.ORG

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Fody's: DJ Wensy Rivera, 10 p.m.
Tower Hill: Chase Campbell Band, 8 p.m.

Litchfield

Day of the Dead: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Peter Miles, 6 p.m.
Pipe Dream: Squires of Soul, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Mt. Pleasant, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Angel City: All Girls, 6 p.m.
Backyard Brewery: Danny McCarthy, 6 p.m.
BluAqua Restrobar: Jae Man-nion, 9 p.m.
Bonfire: Chase Clark, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Diamond Spechile, 8 p.m.
Foundry: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Red Light, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: Stone Temple Posers, 9 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Mike Sudderth, 8 p.m.
Sweeney Post: Jennifer Mitchell, 7:30 p.m.
To Share: Mollicious Intent, 6:30 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Andre Balazs, 5:45 p.m.
Twin Barns: Chris Perkins, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m.

Milford

Pasta Loft: Mostly 90's, 8 p.m.
Riley's: Glitter and Camo, 8 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Moultonborough

Buckey's: Carolyn Ramsay Band, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

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

New Boston

Molly's: Brian Weeks, 6:30 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: karaoke night, 7 p.m.

Northwood

Northwoods Brewing: Conor & Zeb, 6 p.m.

Penacook

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

Pleistow

The Nest: Woodland Protocol, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth

Clipper Tavern: Max Sullivan, 9 p.m.
Gas Light: Lewis Goodwin, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Taylor Hughes, 9 p.m.
Grill 28: Richard Wallace, 6 p.m.
The Press Room: The Silks, 9 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Tenderheds, 9 p.m.

Salem

Luna Bistro: Andrea Paquin, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Daisy Cutter 6, 7:30 p.m.
Red's: Tim Parent & the Grim Bros., 8 p.m.

Somersworth

Earth Eagle: Holly Furlone, 6 p.m.

Sunapee

Sunapee Community Coffee House: Cosy Sheridan, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 27

Alton Bay

Foster's Tavern: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.

Bedford

Murphy's: Patrick Synan, 6 p.m.

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Rebecca Turnel, 7 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Matt Bergeron, 6 p.m.

Claremont

The Common Man: Brian Walker, 6 p.m.

Concord

Barley House: Lucas Gallo, 7 p.m.
Downtown Farmers Market: Brad Myrick, 9 a.m.
Hermanos: Tim Hazelton, 6:30 p.m.
Penuche's: live music, 8 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Farmers Market: Taylor Marie, 9 a.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Bird Friend, Myles Burr, 8 p.m.

Epping

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

Exeter

Sawbelly: Alan Roux, 1 p.m.; Liz Ridgely, 5 p.m.

Francestown

Crotched Mountain: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

Gilford

Patrick's Pub: Sweetbloods, 6 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: live music, 7 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Neon '90s, 9 p.m.
Whym: Freddie Catalfo, 6:30 p.m.

Henniker

Pats Peak: Kimayo, 6 p.m.

Hillsboro

Main Street Bar & Grill: Mikey G, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's Bar: Justin Cohn, 7 p.m.

Lynn's 102: Off the Record, 8:30 p.m.

Jaffrey

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

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: All That 90's, 8 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.
Tower Hill: Young Guns Band, 8 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Jeff Mrozek, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Time Bomb '70s band, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m.
BluAqua Restrobar: Clint Lapointe, 9 p.m.
Bonfire: FatBunny Band, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Eric Grant Band, 8 p.m.
Foundry: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; Inside Out, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Matt Litzinger, 4 p.m.
Hill Bar & Grill: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.
Pizza Man: NKM, 5:30 p.m.
Shaskeen: Miketon & The Night Blinders CD release, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: BJ Magoon & Driving Sideways, 9 p.m.
Wild Rover: Johnny Angel, 5 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Bob Kroepel, 5:45 p.m.
Twin Barns: Karen Grenier, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Milford

Pasta Loft: The Caylin Costello Band, 8:30 p.m.
Riley's: Down By Ten, 8 p.m.
Station 101: Johnny Roberts, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Acoustic Tandem, 8 p.m.
Liquid Therapy: Faith Ann, 7 p.m.
Peddler's Daughter: live music, 8 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: The Incidentals, 6:30 p.m.

Newbury

Goosefeathers Pub: Ariel Strass-

er & Ken Budka, 3 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Joe Winslow, 9:30 p.m.; DJ Koko P, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.
Otto: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.
The Press Room: Mega Mango, 7 p.m.; Drunken Doja Monkey, 11 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Madhouse, 9 p.m.

Salem

Luna Bistro: Brian House, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Chop Shop: Fast Times, 7:30 p.m.
Red's: Redemption Band, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 28

Bedford

Copper Door: Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Brian Weeks, 4 p.m.

Concord

Penuche's: open mic, 4 p.m.

Exeter

Sawbelly: The Brethren, 10 a.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Bob Pratt Band, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton

Smuttynose: Freddie Catalfo, 4:30 p.m.
Whym: Duo w/ Anthony LiPetri, 1 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Carter on Guitar, 4 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: M&D Acoustic Duo, 1 p.m.

Laconia

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

Manchester

Angel City: Living Colour, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: free line dancing, 7 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 10 a.m.; Paul Wolstencroft, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: open stage night, 5:45 p.m.

Milford

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

Newbury

Goosefeathers Pub: Alex Cohen, 3 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Jim and Jordan's

Irish Sunday, 4 p.m.

Northfield

Boonedoxz Pub: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
The Press Room: Johanna Landis, 11 a.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 11 a.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Mockingbird, 7 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 29

Dover

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

Gilford

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

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

The Bar: karaoke with Phil, 9 p.m.

Laconia

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Monday Night Muse w/Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.; Rob Pagnano, 9 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.; Russ Six, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30

Concord

Barley House: Irish music session, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: Scott Solsky, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Dover

Fury's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

Hampton

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

Laconia

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

SERIOUS COMEDY

After studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, **Mark Riccadonna** has made a name for himself as a standup comedian and a contributing writer for *Saturday Night Live's* "Weekend Update." He drops into Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester; chunkys.com) on Friday, Jan. 26, and Saturday, Jan. 27, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.



NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

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

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 6 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fody's: open mic with Devin Carrol, 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. 31
Concord
Hermanos: Craig Jaster, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.

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

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

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Huck, 7 p.m.

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

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

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Karaoke with Mike Kelly, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Angel City: Not Fade Away, 6 p.m.

BluAqua Restobar: Richard Wallace, 7 p.m.
Fratello's: Joe Winslow, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: line dancing, 7 p.m.; Mike Forgette, 10 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Mary Fagan, 5:45 p.m.

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

Milford
Riley's: Eric Lamarche, 6:30 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Taylor Hughes, 9 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: DJ Manny karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
Red's: Fred Ellsworth, 7 p.m.

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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

- **Lucas Zelnick** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Thursday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford/Rob Steen** Nan King in Hudson (www.nankinghudson.com), Thursday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
- **Lee DeWyze** Friday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org)
- **Kenny Rogerson/Jody Sloane/David Lamb** Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusichall.com), Friday, 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.
- **Dave Russo** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Friday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.
- **Chris Zito** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Feb. 3, 8:30 p.m.
- **Bob Marley** Flying Monkey in Plymouth (flyingmonkeynh.com), Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
- **Al Park** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Friday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
- **Frank Santorelli** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Feb. 10, 8:30 p.m.
- **Wolves of Glendale** Press Room in Portsmouth (pressroomnh.com), Friday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
- **The Calamari Sisters** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- **R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Palace in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
- **Kathy Griffin** Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m.
- **Young & Strange** Colonial Theatre in Laconia (coloniallaconia.com), Thursday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.
- **Jim Colliton/Kyle Crawford/Jay Martin** Tupelo in Derry (tupelomusichall.com), Friday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.
- **Young & Strange: Delusionists** Nashua Center for the Arts (nashuacenterforthearts.com), Saturday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.
- **Anne Marie Scheffler in MILF Life Crisis** Bank of NH Stage in Concord (ccanh.com), Saturday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m.
- **Amy Tee** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:30 p.m.



Kenny Rogerson

- **Funny Women of a Certain Age** Flying Monkey in Plymouth (flyingmonkeynh.com), Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
- **Jimmy Cash & Friends** Rex in Manchester (palacetheatre.org), Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
- **Randy Rainbow** Music Hall in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
- **Wanda Sykes** Chubb Theatre in Concord (ccanh.com), Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
- **Tom Segura** SNHU Arena in Manchester (snhuarena.com), Friday, March 1, 8 p.m.
- **Christine Hurley** Headliners in Manchester (headlinersnh.com), Saturday, March 2, 8:30 p.m.
- **Peter Antoniou** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth (themusichall.org), Sunday, March 10, 7 p.m.
- **Irish Comedy Tour** Nashua Center for the Arts (nashuacenterforthearts.com), Sunday, March 10, 8 p.m.

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Trivia

Events

• **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, reedsnorth.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 Sporcle trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road in Concord; 226-8667) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Hop Knot (1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hopknotnh.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Shooters Sports Pub (6 Columbus Ave., Exeter, 772-3856) at 7:15 p.m.
- **Thursday** 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.



Barbie

- **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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Music Hall Lounge

131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shows

- **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,



The The Band Band

- 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
- **Fabulous Thunderbirds** Saturday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **The Johnny A Band** Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Bearly Dead** (Grateful Dead tribute) Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m., Angel City
- **Harrison Goodell** Saturday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Hayley Jane** Saturday, Jan. 27, 9 p.m., Stone Church
- **Steve Rondo** Sunday, Jan. 28, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Fabulous Thunderbirds** Sunday, Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Living Colour** Sunday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Angel City
- **The The Band Band** Sunday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Tupelo
- **Yoko Miwa Trio** Sunday, January 28, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Step Afrika!** Tuesday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **On a Winter's Night** Tuesday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Jill Sobule** Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Bruce Katz Band** Wednesday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Kyshona** Thursday, Feb. 1,

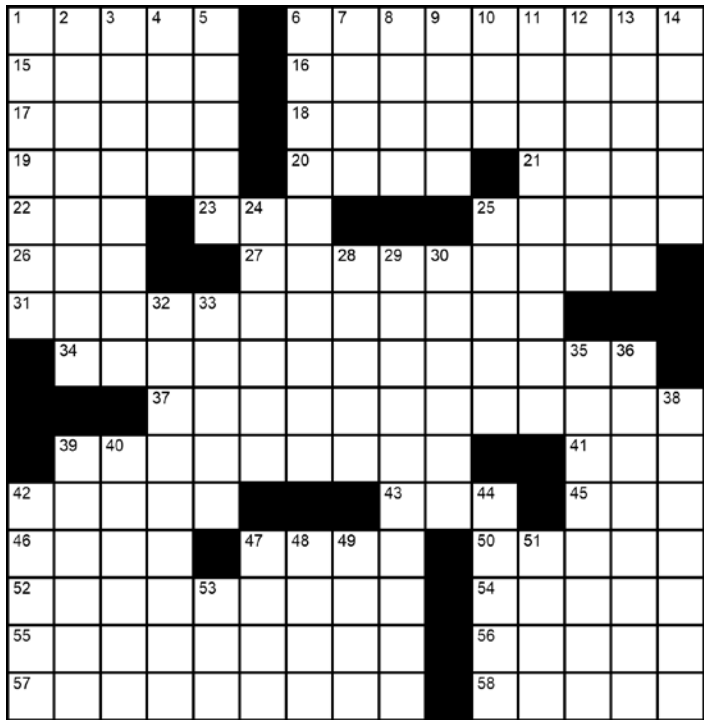
- 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Band of Horses** Thursday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., Music Hall
- **Nate Ramos** Friday, Feb. 2, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
- **Wolff Sisters/Hush Club** Friday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., Press Room
- **Sophie B. Hawkins** Friday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **The Music of John Denver** Friday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
- **Constantine Maroulis** Friday, Feb. 2, 8 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
- **Nico Suave & the Mothership** (Led Zeppelin tribute) Friday, Feb. 2, 9 p.m., Stone Church
- **Dan Walker** Saturday, Feb. 3, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Recycled Percussion** Saturday, Feb. 3, and Sunday, Feb. 4, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **NH Jazz Orchestra** Saturday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., Bank of NH Stage
- **Joshua Redman** Saturday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **603 Folk** Saturday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m., Palace
- **Classic Stones Live** Saturday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Dreadnaught** Saturday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **The Warped Tour Band** (pop punk tribute) Saturday, Feb. 3, 8 p.m., Angel City
- **Kali Loops** Sunday, Feb. 4, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Moondance** (Van Morrison tribute) Sunday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Fortune** Sunday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Daniel Donato** Tuesday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Roomful of Blues** Wednesday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Mr. Big** Wednesday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m., Tupelo

A IS FOR AXE

Over the past two decades **Johnny A** has made a name for himself in New England and around the world as a virtuoso guitarist. Don't miss his upcoming solo show at Tupelo (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 plus fees.



“Set Me Free”—no theme, you know the drill.



Across

- 1. Structural material
- 6. Nehi offering
- 15. “Somewhere Only We Know” performers (2004)
- 16. Stopped oneself
- 17. Element #18
- 18. Up against it
- 19. West of “Futurama”
- 20. Helper, for short
- 21. “Agreed”
- 22. Mellow
- 23. Baryshnikov’s former dance co.
- 25. Blender brand
- 26. Scottish veto
- 27. Withdrawn
- 31. Preparing it may involve a snap
- 34. Mandatory
- 37. Spots for scratches
- 39. “___ are rarely the protagonists in the English novel, but they are oddly abundant in its margins.” (2017 essay in The Conversation)
- 41. “Still ___” (1999 track ft. Snoop Dogg)
- 42. Off-schedule
- 43. H, as in Greek
- 45. Pastor’s nickname
- 46. Fashion designer Cassini
- 47. Tomato variety
- 50. “The Hobbit” setting

- 52. Court order?
- 54. Well-connected Bacon
- 55. Greeting to new arrivals
- 56. Upright, as posture
- 57. Waiting areas
- 58. “Tiny Bubbles” singer from Hawaii

Down

- 1. Musicians that suggest you pick it up?
- 2. Actress with the autobiography “Speedbumps: Flooring It Through Hollywood”
- 3. Vision of near-perfection?
- 4. Unstable chemical compound
- 5. Lotte ___ of “The Threepenny Opera”
- 6. Long-necked wader with about a five-foot wingspan
- 7. Deep sleep states
- 8. Edwards and Lackland, e.g.
- 9. Nitwit, to a Brit
- 10. Take a course?
- 11. Resists squirminess
- 12. Airing when old networks would’ve signed off for the day, maybe
- 13. Found to be
- 14. Snake with a puff variety
- 24. Goddess, box, and cornrow, for example
- 25. Radical that’s C8H17 (with more focus on the 8)
- 28. “All done”
- 29. Robins, outside of the U.S.
- 30. Optimally
- 32. Netflix series that spawned a Netflix reality show
- 33. Full of wordplay
- 35. Like some Internet searches and surreal art, these days
- 36. Prospectors’ reaction after striking gold, maybe

- 38. 53 minutes past
- 39. Brawl setting in Westerns
- 40. Like jigsaw puzzles and some lumber
- 42. 2017 role for Margot
- 44. Set a price at
- 47. Start again
- 48. Twistable cookie
- 49. Seriously harm
- 51. Deli sandwich
- 53. ___ y tierra burrito (steak and shrimp option)

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KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

1	6X	7+	
2÷	4+	3-	
			2÷
12X		2	

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WORKSPACE:

CHALLENGING

6X	9+	5-	6
12X	11+	1-	3+
	6+	5	
6X	1-	1-	
	24X	5	3÷
5		1-	

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WORKSPACE:

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

3-	6X	1
4	2	3
1	3	2
3	1	4
2÷	4	1
2	4	1

20X	5-	6	2÷	4	2	3
4-	4	6	1	2	3	5
3	3	2	4	6	5	1
3+	2	5	3	1	6	4
1	72X	3-	2	5	4	6
6	4	5	3÷	3	1	2

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

Six four-letter words with OW in the middle ☐☐☐☐☐

Voice of Darth Vader: _____ ☐☐☐

Three four-letter countries ☐☐☐☐

Three shapes ☐☐☐☐

Two birds of prey ☐☐

Last Week's Answers: : AVOCADO PAPAYA ORANGE MANGO APPLE LIME / GERMANY POLAND ITALY SPAIN / BATMAN ROBIN / BRIDGET / MARS

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication 7/17

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

To give, oh to give

Across

1. Modest Mouse put a lid on 'Fly Trapped In'
5. 'Do Me' Bell ___ DeVoe
8. 80s R&B singer Peebles
11. Rolling Stones "I'm on the __, we ain't for hire"
12. '09 Kiss album '___ Boom'
14. Spear Of Destiny '___ Law' was for backyard turf pieces, perhaps
15. 'Light Of Day' punk Joan
16. 'Merrimack' band out of Egypt?
17. 'Tramp' soul icon Redding
18. John Legend "___ my beginning, even when I lose I'm winning"
21. Mellencamp's Buddy Holly cov-er '___ On'
22. 'No Pleasantries' band
23. Bob Dylan song for an annual Ontario winter festival
28. Exclamation for being amazed
31. 4 Non Blondes '___ Up'
32. Albums want to turn ___ profit (abbr)
33. Microsoft's MP3 competitor
34. ___ sapiens (they're us!)
35. Van Halen was on '___ The World'
37. She had '98 smash 'Believe'
38. Yames of Monsters Of Folk
39. Go with "oohs"
40. U2 'California (There Is ___ To Love)'

41. Ramones 'Sheena ___ Punk Rocker'
42. Complete band fixations or these
45. Yo La Tengo 'I ___ Hear The Heart Beating As One'
47. Wang Chung 'Dance ___ Days'
48. Wallflowers "One, two, ___"
54. Soulful singer Benet
55. Arranged scales
56. 'Only A Fool' jazz singer James
58. Lee/Folds/Kweller pop supergroup
59. One of Abba's femmes
60. Contract fraud
61. Repeated word in 'N Sync hit
62. Rapper that did 'Cherry Wine' w/ Amy Winehouse
63. Big name in electronics

5. Fan born between 45-65
6. '11 Head & The Heart single 'Lost ___ Mind'
7. Fountains Of Wayne 'Radiation ___'
8. '11 Incubus album 'If ___?'
9. 'Britney Spears 'Oops!... It Again'
10. All Time Low 'Merry Christmas, Kiss My ___'
12. 'Townes' Earle
13. 3-part 'Just A Song Before I Go' harmony legends (abbr)
14. What Natalie Imbruglia starred in, before 'Torn'
19. Pearl Jam "They don't scurry when something bigger comes their way" song for these rodents
20. Two singers
23. Michael Jackson '___ It' asks for the door-knock to identify himself
24. '14 Three Days Grace song for being electronic and not human
25. Run out, as a Rolling Stone subscription
26. '99 Muse debut song
27. Label ___ Jam

29. Forebodings or these for tour mishaps
30. She & Him guitarist M
31. Connie Stevens Sixteen Reasons (___ Love You)'
35. New Kids On The Block 'Put It On The ___'
36. Come with ahs
37. Admired edgy image
39. Blue Ribbon song (hyph)
40. Producer/Chic guitarist Rodgers
43. Rips
44. Latin dance
46. Career's popular and irrelevant times are rainbows or these
48. Guitar god Anastasio
49. 'Unbelievable' Brits
50. Neil Diamond 'September ___'
51. Sarah McLachlan "We are born innocent" song
52. This Warner-owned label relaunched in '20
53. Jazz tenor saxist Getz
54. Industrial/goth band Nitzer ___
57. English 'Just A Little Girl' Studt

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

Down

1. Pink hears record spins on 'God Is ___'
2. Concrete Blonde smash with boy's name
3. Low choir woman
4. Elvis doesn't want the mail on '___ Sender'

R&R answer from pg 40 of 1/18

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

Jonesin' answer from pg 39 of 1/18

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

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

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 45.

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle C

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Tears for Water: Songbook of Poems and Lyrics*, by Alicia Keys, born Jan. 25, 1981.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *And it feels like ooooo / But you don't know my name / And I swear it feels like ooooo ooooo ooooo / You don't know my name / (round and round and round we go, will you ever know?) Ooo.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Hello morning / now I see you / cause I am awake. Well, you gotta start somewhere.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *When gone is the praise / When gone is the fun / Is gone the worth / Of what you have become? No.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *The city is beautiful / The experience is blessed / But at times I can't fix my mind to see it. Look for the good.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *These thoughts came to me during a late night bus ride full of doubt, strength, and bewildered wonderment. I'm always up so late at night, so on the tour bus I like to sit in the two seats up front that look out onto the road before me. Watching the sky change color always makes me think about my most suppressed feelings. It's gray, now it's blue, now it's pink....*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *How can I give of myself / Yet to myself / Without confusing myself? / Am I a mess? Slow down.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *Adrenaline rushing in my body / All my power I just can't fight it / No matter how I keep on tryin' / I can't deny I got this ... heartburn / Burnin' in my soul / Call the fire department / It's out of control. No pizza before bed.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *I'm trying to stay pleasant / But it's harder every day / I'm trying to keep my mind about me / But I feel*

like it's slipping away. Step away from the piles of dirty laundry.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Some people live for the fortune / Some people live just for the fame / Some people live for the power, yeah / Some people live just to play the game / Some people think that the physical things / Define what's within / And I've been there before / But that life's a bore*

Zzzzzzzz.
Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Sometimes I feel / like I don't belong anywhere / And it's gonna take so long / for me to get somewhere. Get moving.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *What it is ain't what it was / What should it be? ... How it seems ain't how it is / There's been a change. Try to keep up.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *Unfulfilled Keys was a message to my piano keys and also a message to myself. ... I felt like I had taken all our time together for granted. Do the keys fulfill you or do you fulfill the keys? 🍷*

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 "star-crossed" surname (8)	_____
2 reach for the stars (6)	_____
3 Hollywood star (7)	_____
4 starstruck individual (8)	_____
5 having stars in one's eyes (10)	_____
6 act in the starring role (8)	_____
7 The Beatles' Starr (5)	_____

TA	IRE	ST	ASP	IC
ACT	OPT	FAN	SS	RI
MON	RE	IMI	DLI	PER
GUE	NE	NGO	SU	HEA

Last Week's Answers: 1. PORTOBELLO 2. ENOKI 3. CREMINI 4. SHIITAKE 5. BUTTON 6. OYSTER 7. MOREL

Sudoku Answers from pg 40 of 1/18

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★



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JOHN 5 AND THE CREATURES
 WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 14 | 8:00 P.M.



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The Passing Parade

South Korean model Ain, also known as Angel Box Girl, is being prosecuted for obscene exposure following incidents from last fall, *Oddity Central* reported. In Seoul and Gangnam, Ain walked through the streets wearing a large cardboard box with holes for her arms and legs — plus two more, which she invited strangers to put their hands in to grope her breasts and other body parts. Naturally, she attracted large crowds that police were called to disperse. “It’s freedom of expression,” she said. “I just wanted to market myself. I actually saw many positive reactions, with people telling me they support me and applaud my courage.” If found guilty, Ain could face a \$3,800 fine or up to a year in jail. *Oddity Central*, Jan. 15

Ohhhh-kkaaaayyyy

Pet owners who are exceedingly attached to their furry friends sometimes go to the trouble of having them preserved through taxidermy after they die. After her Roborovski dwarf hamster, Hammy, passed away last year, Jess Porter-Langson, 27, who lives in Brighton in the U.K., sought out Bea Ostrowska, a local taxidermist, hoping to immortalize her beloved pet as a pole-dancing stripper, *Metro News* reported. “This hamster was so iconic, and all my friends

knew Hammy and wanted to see him,” Porter-Langson said. “He needed something special.” Ostrowska posed Hammy on a small platform with a pole and sewed a little thong for him to wear, which is stuffed with tiny dollar bills. “He’s got this creepy little smile going on,” Porter-Langson said. “I was blown away. What is more iconic than a hamster on a stripper pole hustling for money?” *Metro News*, Jan. 17

Fun Suckers

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration, in an effort to suck any remaining fun from highway commutes, has laid down the law: By 2026, states must ban messages on electronic highway signs that include references to pop culture or evoke a laugh. Examples: “Visiting in-laws? Slow down, get there late” from Ohio; “Use Yah Blinkah” from Massachusetts; and “Hocus Pocus, Drive With Focus” from New Jersey. The Associated Press reported that the agency wants the signs to be “simple, direct, brief, legible and clear” because clever messages might distract or confuse drivers. One Arizona state representative, David Cook of Globe, was underwhelmed: “Prime example that the federal government is not focusing on what they need to be.” *AP*, Jan. 14

Be Careful What You Wish For

The Lexington (Kentucky) Convention and Visitors Bureau appears to be desperate for tourists, the Associated Press reported. It is using an infrared laser to send messages toward potentially habitable planets in a solar system 40 light years away, luring extraterrestrials with “lush green countryside ... (and) famous bluegrass.” Lexington native Robert Lodder, an expert in astrobiology and SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), conceived the idea, and linguistics expert Dr. Andrew Byrd consulted: “We included ... the molecular structure for water, bourbon and even dopamine ... because Lexington is fun!” he said. *AP*, Jan. 17

Government in Action

- In Oklahoma, a proposed new bill, HB 3084, would prohibit students who “purport to be an imaginary animal or species” — i.e., furrries — from participating in schools’ curriculum or other activities, *KOKH-TV* reported. Rep. Justin Humphrey of Lane, Oklahoma, filed the bill on Jan. 17; it would also require parents to pick up their furry offspring from school or risk them being turned over to animal control. *KOKH*, Jan. 17
- You’ll need your dictionary for this one. In York, England, signs have been popping up that appear to encourage citizens to “exercise

obtundity,” the BBC reported on Jan. 17. Of course, no one knows what that word means: “Knowing the police, it could be anything,” said one resident. Social media has come alive with speculation about the signs, but it turns out that “Exercise Obtundity” is the name of a training program involving the York City Council, North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service, and the signs are merely warnings of streets that might be closed during the activities. *BBC*, Jan. 17

News That Sounds Like a Joke

With freezing weather causing slippery surfaces, NHS Scotland, the country’s health service, is advising people on how to safely move about the streets, *STV News* reported. Experts suggest that folks “walk like a penguin,” with toes pointed out slightly, knees loose and arms extended out from the sides. Walkers should take short steps and keep their center of gravity over their feet. “While it may seem silly to walk or waddle like a penguin, the alternative may be a nasty injury or even time in hospital,” said Dr. Emilia Crighton, director for public health at NHS-GGC. “*STV News*, Jan. 16

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

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