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## ON THE COVER

10 This week we bring  
you 63 for free — that is,  
63 things to do or go see  
or watch that are totally,  
mostly, somewhat free or  
at least free-ish.



## ALSO ON THE COVER

You know what else is free? Voting in Hippo's Best of 2024! Vote! Vote now! Vote at Hippopress.com. Tell your friends to vote! Tell your friends to tell their other friends to vote! It's free, it's fun, it will make you hungry for ice cream (maybe, I mean, it asks about ice cream and for some of us, just the words "ice cream" have us craving some Green Monster or Death by Chocolate). In summation, vote! See page 21 for details.

And watch the kids put a new spin on the familiar Marvel characters of Loki and Thor in the play *Hammered* this weekend from the Peacock Players (see page 14).

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Civil Rights focus

U.S. Attorney Jane E. Young has announced the appointment of Matthew Vicinanza as the first dedicated Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) for Civil Rights in the District of New Hampshire. According to a press release, this move aims to bolster the enforcement and protection of civil and constitutional rights within the state. A New Hampshire native, Vicinanza brings experience from his previous role at Crowell & Moring LLP, where he specialized in the federal False Claims Act, anti-fraud statutes and complex commercial disputes. Vicinanza's commitment to the community and his eagerness to expand the Civil Rights practice were highlighted by Young as key factors in his appointment. This initiative follows the allocation of two new attorney positions by the U.S. Attorney's Office, aimed at addressing civil rights as well as domestic terrorism and violent crime in New Hampshire, with the latter role being filled in October 2023.

## State of the City

The Greater Manchester Chamber was slated to host the 2024 State of the City event with Manchester's newly elected Mayor Jay Ruais at The Venues at the Factory, presented by Dartmouth Health, on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 8 a.m. (moved from Feb. 13 due to weather). According to a press release, this breakfast forum was to provide Chamber members with an opportunity to stay informed

about local affairs and engage directly with city leadership. Mayor Ruais was scheduled to outline his priorities and goals for the year ahead, engaging in a comprehensive discussion with moderator Scott Spradling on topics such as the city budget, public safety, economic development and homelessness, as well as the future of Manchester's school district and his vision for the city. The event was scheduled to include networking, welcoming remarks by GMC President & CEO Heather McGrail, sponsor remarks by Dartmouth Health President & CEO Dr. Joanne Conroy and a moderated Q&A session, culminating in a dialogue on Manchester's path forward.

## Outstanding service

Senior Assistant Attorney General K. Allen Brooks, Chief of the New Hampshire Department of Justice's Environmental Protection Bureau, has been honored with the 2023 Outstanding Service in Public Sector Law Award at the New Hampshire Bar mid-year meeting, according to a press release. Announced by Attorney General John M. Formella, this recognition is awarded to individuals demonstrating exceptional service in government, military, law enforcement, public interest law services or nonprofit organizations. With a tenure at the NHDOJ since 2004 and leading the Environmental Protection Bureau since 2008, Brooks has dedicated his career to protecting New Hampshire's environment and natural

resources. His accomplishments include securing significant settlements in major environmental cases, such as the State v. Exxon groundwater contamination case, leading efforts against Volkswagen for illegal "defeat devices," and reaching a settlement with St. Gobain for PFAS remediation in drinking water. Brooks was nominated for the award by his colleagues.

## Dam ownership

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has been granted the authority through HB1429 to transfer ownership of state-owned dams to municipalities or other interested parties, including the provision for making loans from a dam maintenance revolving loan fund. According to a press release, this legislation, aimed at facilitating the transfer of dams and ensuring that their upkeep or removal aligns with local interests, requires a year's notice before any state-owned dam removal. It establishes criteria for municipalities to acquire ownership, including legislative approval and agreement on long-term debt and maintenance issues. The law sets up a loan program to support the repair and maintenance of these dams, funded by a newly established dam maintenance revolving loan fund, which will be operational once it accrues a balance of at least \$2.5 million. The initiative will be effective from July 1, 2024.

Keith J. Loud, M.D., M.Sc., Dartmouth Health Children's physician-in-chief, will participate in a panel discussion on America's gun violence epidemic following the New Hampshire debut of "On the Exhale," a one-woman show by Martin Zimmerman, at the Bank of New Hampshire Stage in Concord on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. According to a press release, the play aims to illuminate the real-life impacts of gun violence on families. The panel, also featuring state Sen. Debra Altschiller, will explore solutions to mitigate this crisis. The discussion is part of a production by Theatre Kapow, with tickets available at [bit.ly/488IPTZ](http://bit.ly/488IPTZ).

**CONCORD**

**Hooksett**

Goffstown

Londonderry

**NASHUA**

**Salem** will host a series of Girl Scouts informational events for girls in grades K through 3 and their caregivers. According to a press release, the events will be held at North Salem Elementary School on Thursday, Feb. 15; at Dr. Lewis F. Soule Elementary School on Wednesday, Feb. 21, and at Barron School on Thursday, Feb. 22, each from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The gatherings will introduce participants to Girl Scouts programs and are open to all interested parties, with walk-ins encouraged. Visit [girlscoutsgwm.org](http://girlscoutsgwm.org).

New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR) will celebrate its 2024 Business Sustainability Awards on Wednesday, March 13, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Southern New Hampshire University in Hooksett. According to a press release, this event will recognize businesses, students and individuals who have shown exceptional commitment to sustainability across various categories. The awards are based on the NHBSR's Measure What Matters 101 Survey. NHBSR invites members, partners and sustainability enthusiasts to join the celebration. Visit [nhbsr.org/celebrate](http://nhbsr.org/celebrate).

## Noise pollution

Sen. Denise Ricciardi has successfully led the passage of SB 580-FN, a bill designed to address noise pollution from highways in communities ineligible for federal funding. According to a press release, this bipartisan effort introduces a new funding mechanism, allowing the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to allocate up to \$10

million in turnpike toll credits annually to a Noise Barrier Construction Fund. The initiative, supported by Sens. Watters, Gray and Birdsell, aims to facilitate the construction of noise barriers in New Hampshire neighborhoods overlooked by current federal eligibility criteria. The bill, having been amended by the Senate, is now under review by the Senate Finance Committee.

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### NEWS & NOTES Q&A

## Work for the future

A talk with the Chamber's Citizen of the Year

Howard Brodsky, co-founder of CCA Global Partners, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Manchester Chamber for his business leadership and community service. He talked about what this award means to him, his criteria for supporting community projects and his insights on balancing local and global business initiatives.

**Q:** *What does being Citizen of the Year mean to you?*

I'm deeply honored and humbled to receive this award. Growing up in Manchester, I've seen firsthand the resilience and spirit of this community. The past recipients of this award are leaders who have made invaluable contributions to improving lives here. It's a privilege to now be included among them and to give back to the place that shaped me.



Howard Brodsky, Courtesy photo.

*Why fund a prize for young journalists?*

My late son Jeff had a passion for journalism and giving voice to important stories. To honor his legacy, we created the Brodsky Prize to encourage promising young reporters across New Hampshire. An informed public is so vital for a healthy democracy. This award celebrates the

investigative spirit and brings recognition to students pursuing truth and making a difference in their communities.

*How do you select the community projects you support?*

I look for organizations tackling our community's biggest needs through innovative, collaborative solutions. Some of my top criteria include potential social impact, sustainability, and alignment with my values of inclusion and opportunity for all. I also seek out leaders who show a real commitment to empowering others. By working together, I believe we can build a stronger, more equitable future.

*How do you balance local and global business interests?*

While headquartered here, my businesses operate nationwide and globally. That gives me a platform to foster connections between our community and the wider world. It's about promoting Manchester on the largest stages but also bringing international innovations and perspectives back home. With open channels of cooperation, I think we can leverage our local talents on a broader scale to make a greater impact.

*What's a notable challenge you've overcome in your career?*

Early in my career running my own business, I encountered significant financial difficulties that almost caused me to close my doors. It was an incredibly stressful time, but it also taught me lifelong lessons about resilience, adaptability and being prudent with resources. Challenges like that stay with you and make you a better problem-solver going forward.

*What's your main piece of advice for making a community impact?*

Listen to understand the real, everyday challenges people face. Then roll up your sleeves and work together to develop bold yet pragmatic solutions that can scale to meet community needs. It's also about empowering others — through mentorship, resources or opportunities. By investing in one another, we can build the strong, caring society we all want for future generations. — Angie Sykeny

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# 3 & counting for Mahomes



**The Big Story – Super Bowl 58:** With a first three quarters that were nothing to write home about SB 58 wasn't a game for the ages. But the excitement picked up and drama built throughout

its eventful fourth quarter and the second overtime period in SB history, where we were reminded of two things by **Patrick Mahomes:** Don't bet against greatness at the end of huge games, and **Tom Brady's** hold as the GOAT may not be as long-lived as most think.

Yes, after winning "just" his third title on Sunday he still has a long way to go to match Brady's seven SB wins. But since there was a 10-year gap for TB between winning his third at 27 and his fourth at 37, the 28-year-old Mahomes can make up a lot of ground before athletic senior citizenship sets in if the winning continues in KC during that time.

In the meantime, enjoy his greatness.

**Sports 101:** Who holds the record for most career Super Bowl sacks?

**News Item – New Day for Kelly:** Following the shocker of the week, options to root for locals in college football are down to one school, *The Ohio State*. That's because **Chip Kelly** stunned almost everyone by stepping down as HC of the UCLA to become OC under his old QB during UNH's **Ryan Day** era. He took it after Day's old OC, **Bill O'Brien**, who not too long ago was OC for the Patriots, stepped down after less than a month to become HC at BC.

Got all that? Well if you did follow the dizzying array of O's, H's, U's and B's that preceded all the C's in the last paragraph you probably are an elite Scrabble player.

**News Item – NBA Trade Deadline Moves That Affect Celtics:** (1) After recently bringing in **OG Anunoby** and the Detroit duo of **Bojan Bogdanovic** and **Alec Burks** last week to add scoring punch off the bench, the Knicks may now be the Celtics' biggest threat in the East. (2) While injuries are always the issue for him I like what a healthy **Gordon Hayward** can do for Oak City off their bench. (3) Not sure how much help new Celtics **Xavier Tillman** and **Jaden Springer** are going to help. But I can say I've seen Springer play in short stints twice and both times he caught my attention in a good way.

**The Numbers:**

2 – wins for **Doc Rivers** in his first seven games since replacing **Adrian Griffin** as

coach of the going-in-the-wrong-direction Milwaukee Bucks.

6 – Celtics alumni traded last Thursday including **Hayward, Evan Fournier, Kelly Olynyk, Grant Williams, Dennis Schroder** and **Marcus Morris** — twice.

58 – consecutive Super Bowls this reporter has seen to keep me in the club of people who've seen every one ever played.

**Random Super Bowl Thoughts:**

How in the name of **George Halas** could the NFL let the fans vote for SB-MVP? It turns the award into the same kind of homer-driven fan boy popularity contest that wrecked baseball's All-Star Game.

How in the name of **George Blanda** can you start voting for the award early in the fourth quarter? At that point the score was 13-10 and **Christian McCaffrey** was probably the MVP. Except there were still 29:57 left to play and double the action occurred as more points were scored during that than in the first 45 minutes.

Really strong game in the booth for **Tony Romo**, where he was right on the mark a lot. Like saying SF had to go back to the run when they went stagnant in the third quarter. He was right on a couple of go-for-it-on-fourth-down calls, great on identifying pre-snap match-up advantages and on explaining what the motion by others did to get **Mecole Hardman** open for the game-winning TD catch.

I'm betting that as the joyful Hardman flipped the historic TD ball away, somewhere **Doug Mientkiewicz** was saying, "dude, that's not what I'd do with that ball."

Where are all those folks who said **Andy Reid** was a horrible coach who couldn't manage the clock coming down the strength in big games?

As the Bears get ready to take a QB at the top of the draft for a third time in seven seasons, wonder what those in Chicago watching Mahomes do it again were thinking knowing da Bears passed on him in 2017 to take **Mitchell Trubisky** instead.

**Sports 101 Answer:** The record for career SB sacks of 4.5 is shared by **Charles Haley**, who played in five SB's with Dallas and San Francisco, and **Von Miller**, who played just two for Denver.

**Final Thought – Battle to Save the World:** If we face a winner-take-all football game with an alien force for the survival of the planet, which trio are you taking — **Bill Belichick**, **Brady** and **Gronk**, or **Reid**, **Mahomes** and **Travis Kelce**?

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## NEWS & NOTES

# QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

## Smarties, part 1

New Hampshire has been ranked as the 8th most educated state in America for 2024, according to a study released by the personal finance website WalletHub. The study evaluated all 50 states based on 18 metrics across educational attainment, school quality, and achievement gaps between genders and races. New Hampshire excelled in several key areas, ranking 4th for the percentage of high school diploma holders, 10th for associate's degree holders or college-experienced adults, and 8th for bachelor's degree holders. The state also stood out for having the smallest gender gap in educational attainment, taking first place.

**QOL score: +1**

**Comment:** *Neighboring Massachusetts, home to prestigious institutions like MIT and Harvard, tops the list as the most educated state in the U.S., boasting the highest percentages of adults with bachelor's and advanced degrees and leading the nation in high school math and reading scores.*

## Smarties, part 2

Spark Academy, situated on Manchester Community College's campus, recently hosted Dean Kamen, Gov. Sununu and other dignitaries to celebrate the creation of 200 Experiential Robotics Platform (XRP) robots by the academy's student-led 3D print farm. According to a press release, this initiative aims to supply low-cost robotics kits to New Hampshire classrooms, fostering skills in problem-solving, teamwork and engineering among students. Spark Academy, which integrates robotics into its curriculum, enabled students to gain hands-on manufacturing experience through this project. The involvement began when fourth-year students participated in a capstone project testing the XRP prototype, leading to the production of kits for global distribution at the FIRST Global Conference in Geneva. The Academy plans to continue producing XRP kits, with future projects potentially originating from student ideas.

**QOL score: +1**

**Comment:** *Spark Academy is currently open for 2024-25 admissions, with an info night for prospective families scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22. For more details, visit [sparkacademynh.org](http://sparkacademynh.org).*

## The gas station roller coaster

In New Hampshire the average price of gasoline has increased by 1.9 cents per gallon over the past week, reaching \$3.08/g, according to GasBuddy's analysis of 875 stations. This marks a 4.1-cent rise from last month and a 23.0-cent decrease compared to the previous year. Meanwhile the national average for diesel has climbed 6.9 cents, now at \$3.99 per gallon. GasBuddy's survey identified the price range in New Hampshire from the cheapest station at \$2.76/g to the most expensive at \$3.89/g. Nationally, the average gasoline price has gone up by 5.2 cents, averaging \$3.17/g, which is 9.6 cents higher than last month but 20.0 cents lower than last year, based on data from more than 150,000 gas stations.

**QOL score: -1**

**Comment:** *"We've seen the national average price of gasoline inching higher now for three straight weeks, but I'm afraid the worst is yet to come. With several major refinery issues persisting across various regions, the eventual transition to summer gasoline is likely to continue to put upward pressure on prices, with larger weekly increases likely coming in March and April," Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, commented in the price update.*

**QOL score: 55**

**Net change: +1**

**QOL this week: 56**

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# THIS WEEK

## BIG EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 15 AND BEYOND

#### Thursday, Feb. 15

Catch the **14th Annual New England Winter Blues Festival** tonight starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) presenting a Gulf Coast Records Revue with Popa Chubby, Albert Castiglia, Monster Mike Welch and Paul Size with The Wicked Lo-Down. Tickets cost \$35. Michael Witthaus talked to festival organizer Nick David for a



The Wicked Lo-Down.

story in last week's issue of the Hippo (see hippopress.com and check out page 36 in the e-edition of the Feb. 8 issue).

#### Friday, Feb. 16

Attention Oscar completists and film fans in general. The **Oscar Nominated Short Films** come to Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St. in Concord; redrivertheatres.org) starting today. The line-up this weekend: The five short films nominated in the animated category (an 80-minute production) will screen at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, as well as at 12:30 p.m. on Sun-

day, Feb. 18. The live action shorts (two hours and 20 minutes) will screen Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m. The documentary shorts will screen Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2:30 p.m. Find more screenings in the film listings on page 30.

#### Friday, Feb. 16

Regular season basketball schedules are wrapping up. The

men's team of the **Rivier Raiders** plays Fisher College tonight at 6 p.m. at Muldoon Fitness Center (440 Main St. in Nashua). See rivierathletics.com.

The **SNHU Penmen** basketball teams each have three more regular season home games on the schedule: Pace University on Saturday, Feb. 17, (women at 1:30 p.m.; men at 3:30 p.m.); Assumption University on Saturday, Feb. 24, (women at 1:30 p.m.; men at 3:30 p.m.) and the College of Saint Rose on Tuesday, Feb. 27, (women at 5:30 p.m.; men at 7:30 p.m.). The games take place at Stan Spiro Field House (at the Southern New Hampshire University campus, 2500 River Road in Manchester); regular season games are free to attend.

**Saint Anselm Hawks** basketball teams play their final regular season home games on Wednesday, Feb. 21, against the University of New Haven. Men play at 7:30 p.m., women play at 5:30 p.m. at Stoutenburgh Gymnasium (73

College Road on Saint Anselm College campus in Manchester). Tickets to either game cost \$10 (kids 5 and under get in free to regular season games) and are available for purchase starting one hour ahead of game time at the Gymnasium ticket booth. See saintanselmhawks.com.

#### Saturday, Feb. 17

If last weekend's end of *Dancing Queens'* run at the Palace Theatre left you wanting more ABBA, head to Gimme Gimme Disco tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashua-center-

terforthearts.com). This dance party — disco attire encouraged — will feature a DJ playing the hits of ABBA, The Bee Gees, Donna Summer and Cher, according to the website. Tickets cost \$19 to \$24.



#### Save the Date! Sunday, March 3

See the Red Hot Chilli Pipers — yes, "Pipers" — on Sunday, March 3, at 4 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts (Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). The band bills itself as "bagrock" — a fusion of traditional Scottish music, with bagpipes, and rock and pop anthems, according to the Cap Center. Tickets start at \$33.75.

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# 63 FOR FREE

Completely, totally, mostly free and free-ish fun things to do, see and enjoy



Compiled by Amy Diaz  
adiaz@hippopress.com

Totally, mostly, completely, kinda free — in a world where it sometimes feels like you leak money everytime you leave the house, free fun is a thing to be treasured. Looking for some amusement that doesn't require your credit card (for the most part)? Here are some ideas for free and free-ish fun.

## LIBRARY, MORE LIKE "FREE-BRARY"

Libraries are the kings of free fun.

Your local library of course offers books, magazines, graphic novels, audiobooks and other **physical media free** for you to borrow with only your library card, which usually requires just proof of residency (or employment in that town, if you want to load up on library memberships) like a bill or your driver's license (some area libraries also specifically ask that you bring a photo ID). But those aren't the only free offerings.

**2** **Ebooks and e-audiobooks** are available, along with magazines, newspapers and more, via apps such as Libby, Overdrive and Hoopla, which are accessible once you get your library card. Depending on the app, you can check out a specific number of titles per month or at a time. Instructions on your library's website explain how to get the title onto your device.

**3** **Kanopy** membership is another perk offered by area libraries. A streaming service for movies and TV shows, Kanopy is a solid service for movie fans, with a selection that includes wide- and more limited-release feature films, documentaries, world cinema and relatively recent releases, such as 2023's *Beau Is Afraid* and Kelly Reichardt's *Showing Up*, as well as last year's Oscar winner *Everything Everywhere All At Once*. There is also currently a whole tab of A24 movies. The movies cost two tickets each to watch (for example, Bedford Library patrons get 16 tickets per month). You can watch a Great

Courses class (a "Cooking Through the Ages" class costs five tickets) or a TV show (Series 1 of *Luther* costs four tickets).

**4** In addition to things to watch and read, many local libraries also **lend stuff**. The Library of Things at the Concord Public Library ([concordpubliclibrary.net](http://concordpubliclibrary.net)) includes a ukulele, a ghost meter, a karaoke machine, a telescope and a pickleball set. The Bedford Public Library's ([bedfordnhlibrary.org](http://bedfordnhlibrary.org)) Library of Things includes a portable projector and portable screen, binoculars and more. The Manchester City Library ([manchester.lib.nh.us](http://manchester.lib.nh.us)) has telescopes, framed prints and Playaway Launchpads. Borrow an Xbox, an electric guitar, night vision binoculars or the board game Exploding Kittens via the Merrimack Public Library ([merrimacklibrary.org](http://merrimacklibrary.org)). Check out a Game of Thrones board game, a virtual reality headset or a bird-watching set at the Kelley Library in Salem ([kelleylibrary.org](http://kelleylibrary.org)). Like several other local libraries, the Nashua Public Library ([nashualibrary.org](http://nashualibrary.org)) has a Puzzle Exchange, where you can leave a puzzle, take a puzzle.

**5** Stuff also includes seeds — many area libraries have a **Seed Library** to help you plan and plant your garden. "Check out" seeds for veggies, herbs and other plants and get instructions on how to collect and return the seeds from that plant after the growing season. Area libraries offering seed libraries and exchanges include Goffstown Public Library ([goffstownlibrary.com](http://goffstownlibrary.com)), Bedford Public Library, the Smyth Public Library in Candia ([smyth-pl.org](http://smyth-pl.org)), Nashua Public Library, Manchester City Library, and the Wadleigh Memorial Library in Milford ([wadleighlibrary.org](http://wadleighlibrary.org)).

**6** And take a day trip to an area cultural site with the **museum passes** available to cardholders at pretty much all area libraries. What admissions are free and what admissions may be discounted vary by museum: For example, via the Griffin Free Public Library in Auburn ([griffinfree.org](http://griffinfree.org)), passes for the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire and the McAuliffe Shepard Dis-

covery Center get you up to four free admissions for those locations, while the pass for the Currier Museum of Art gets you half off two adult and all youth admissions. The list of participating museums varies by libraries but often includes Boston attractions as well as New Hampshire sites.

**7** As with the "libraries offer books" example, it might seem obvious to mention **all the events at area libraries** but it's more than just storytimes for kids and book clubs (though pretty much all libraries do have those and the storytimes are often specific to certain ages, offering entertainment specifically geared toward, say, the youngest toddler or the wiggliest preschooler). Among the offerings: Jerri-Anne Boggis, executive director of the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, discusses the Trail and African American history in Concord Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Concord Public Library ([concordpubliclibrary.net](http://concordpubliclibrary.net)); Nashua Public Library will screen *Blazing Saddles* on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 1:30 p.m., and the Manchester City Library ([manchester.lib.nh.us](http://manchester.lib.nh.us)) offers an evening with romance authors Ali Hazelwood, Nikki Payne and Denise Williams via Zoom on Monday, Feb. 26, at 7 p.m.

**8** You can even hold a **book club, board game night or kid graphic novel club** of your own at your library by using one of their meeting rooms. The rooms are often free to reserve (which you can do at many libraries online).

## ARTS & CULTURE FOR FREE

Enjoy the experience of checking out some locally created and/or visual or performing arts — and then support it with donations or by purchasing works.

**9** The **Currier Museum of Art in Manchester** ([currier.org](http://currier.org)) offers free admission on the Second Saturday of each month to New Hampshire residents — the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Active-duty military and their families and veterans can also get free admission any time (Currier also has special offers for free

or discounted admission for members of certain associations and for faculty, staff and students at some area colleges; see the website).

**10** You can also go in depth on Currier collections and exhibitions from home on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. as part of "**Art Conversations From Home.**" The 30-minute Zoom registrations are free, though registration is required.

You can also check out the exhibitions in area art galleries, many of which have public hours and often hold artist receptions near the beginning of the show. Current shows include:

**11** "**All Heart Statures,**" an exhibition featuring works with a variety of approaches to love and emotion, on display at the Mosaic Art Collective in Manchester ([mosaicartcollective.com](http://mosaicartcollective.com)) through Wednesday, Feb. 28. The gallery is open Wednesday through Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. See Michael Withhaus' story about the exhibition in the Feb. 8 issue of the Hippo.

**12** "**Nature in Focus: Image of Flora, Fauna and Landscapes of New England**" at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; [nhaudubon.org](http://nhaudubon.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.

**13** "**Blossoming Beyond,**" an exhibition that "showcases work that embodies the resilience, strength and beauty of both the natural world and the LGBTQ+ community," according to [queerlective.com](http://queerlective.com), at the New Hampshire Audubon Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn). The exhibit will be on display through Saturday, March 30; visit Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**14** **Artists Brenda McDonald, Seth Dewey, Craig Michaud and Dan Splaine** have works on display at



the Sandy Cleary Community Art Gallery at the Nashua Center for the Arts (nashuacenterforthearts.com) through the end of March.

**15** The works of **Susan Rock**, including pieces about Abraham Lincoln, are on display at Two Villages Art Society (Bates Building, 846 Main St. in Hopkinton; twovillagesart.org) through Saturday, March 2. The gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m.

**16** Check out the **League of NH Craftsmen galleries in Concord** (open Monday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and **Nashua** (open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for fine crafts by juried members on display (and available for purchase). See nhcrafts.org.

**17** See the sculptures created as part of the **Nashua International Sculpture Symposium** installed at locations around the Gate City. Find a map to all the pieces at nashuasculpturesymposium.org, where you can get information about each of the sculptures.

**18** Art and nature meet at the **Andres Institute of Art** in Brookline (andresinstitute.org), where more than 100 sculptures are positioned on the institute's 140 acres, which are open daily from dawn to dusk and are free (donations accepted). Find maps to the trails, which include which sculptures you'll find where, on the website, where you can also see the art and get information on the artists.

**19** Take a drive, then take a stroll for some art. The Portsmouth downtown area hosts the **Art 'Round Town gallery walk** on the first Friday of every month from 5 to 8 p.m. (14 Market Square). Explore the art scene in this creative historical community by visiting different art galleries downtown. Visit arroundtown.org.

**20** In Exeter, it's the **2nd Friday Art Walk** 5 to 7 p.m. — see the exhibits at the Seacoast Artists Association (seacoastartist.org), Foundation Art Space (teamexeter.com/foundation-art-space.html) and more. See teamexeter.com.

**21** The **Walker Lecture Series** offers music, performances, lectures and more for free at the Concord City Auditorium (theaudi.org/events). Upcoming events include the Freese Brothers Big Band on Wednesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m.; Man on the Hill, described as a two-act performance that

mixes music and story, on Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. and "Exotic and Tropical Asia, a Travelogue with Marlin Darrah" on Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m.

**22** The **Bach's Lunch** series at the Concord Community Music School (ccmusicsschool.org) offers quick free concerts, usually 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Next up is "A Mountain in Miniature: Exploring the Irish Musical Tradition through the Lens of a Single Tune" on Thursday, March 7.

**23** The Concord Community Music School also hosts **regular student recitals**, which are free to attend. Next on the schedule is the Integrated Arts recital on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. where participants can display visual art they've created during their musical performances, according to the website.

**24** The **Manchester Community Music School** regularly hosts free faculty concerts (online registration is required; there is also a virtual attendance option). Next up is a tribute to Nat King Cole on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. Visit mcmusicsschool.org.

**25** The **Nashua Community Music School** (nashuacms.org/recitals) has student recitals that are free and open to the public. Next up are recitals on Friday, March 22, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 23, with times at 2, 4 and 6 p.m.

**26** The **New Hampshire Historical Society** offers free events, most at its 30 Park St. location in Concord (though some are held elsewhere). Upcoming events include the lecture "Late in Arriving: How Electricity Changed Rural New Hampshire" by Steve Taylor on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m.; a book talk by Alan Rumrill about his *Monadnock Originals* on Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m., and a free family fun day on Saturday, March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. that will feature games, crafts, storytelling and more, according to nhhistory.org.

**27** **New Hampshire Humanities** holds a variety of events — book talks, history lectures, musical performances and more — some of which are in person at locations across the state, some virtual and a few hybrid. Upcoming events include "Liberty Is Our Motto!:"

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Songs and Stories of the Hutchinson Family Singers” with Steve Blunt portraying a mid-19th century entertainer on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 6 p.m. at the Canterbury Town Hall; “Songs of Old New Hampshire” presented by Jeff Warner at the Hooksett Public Library on Friday, Feb. 16, at 11 a.m., and “Banjos, Bones & Ballads” also presented by Warner on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. Some events require pre-registration; see nhhumanities.org/programs.

**28 Slam Free or Die**, an ongoing poetry open mic and slam series, takes place every Thursday night at Stark Brewing Co. in Manchester. Follow them on Facebook @slamfreeordie for updates on upcoming events and appearances.

**29 The Poetry Society of New Hampshire** holds regular readings, usually the third Wednesday of each month, at Gibson’s Bookstore in Concord (gibsonsbookstore.com) often with an open mic following reading by a published poet. Next up is Chard deNiord at the event on Wednesday, Feb. 21, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

**30 Gibson’s Bookstore** also holds regular in-store author events that are free — though you can upgrade the experience by buying the author’s book and getting it signed. Next up are Margo Cooper to discuss *Deep Inside the Blues: Photographs and Interviews* (Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.) and Leila Philip to discuss *Beaver Land: How One Weird Rodent Made America* (Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m.). See gibsonsbookstore.com for the calendar and to sign up for their newsletter.

**31 Balin Books** in Nashua (balinbooks.com) regularly offers author events. Next on the schedule is *Civ-*

*ics 101* podcasters Hannah McCarthy and Nick Capodice to discuss their book *A User’s Guide to Democracy* on Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m.

**32 Bookery Manchester** (bookerymht.com) has a schedule full of author events including upcoming events with Michaela Horan to discuss *Rolling Hills and the Sword of Avalon* (Saturday, Feb. 17, at 1 p.m.); Fox Hollow to discuss *Heart Strings* (Sunday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m.) and Midge Goldberg, editor of *Outer Space: 100 Poems* (Friday, March 15, at 5:30 p.m.). Bookery will also host NAV Arts writers open mic on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 5 p.m.

## FREE IN THE OUTDOORS

Walking outside your door is free — but what if you’re looking for some more specific outdoor adventures?

**33 The network of more than 35 miles of trails at Beaver Brook Association** in Hollis (beaverbrook.org) is free and open to the public daily from dawn to dusk. Find trail maps, including to accessible trails, on the website.

**34 Another stop at Beaver Brook is Maple Hill Gardens** (at the 117 Ridge Road in Hollis location). The 13 themed gardens are also free and open for daily viewing, with the best season for viewing April through October, according to the website, which also said there is a natural play area, a demonstration compost court, picnic areas and a wildflower trail.

**35 The New Hampshire Audubon** manages **39 wildlife sanctuaries** throughout the state that are free to visit and open to the public. See nhaudubon.org/lands/sanctuaries for a list of the sanctuaries, many of which, such as the

Massabesic Center/Battery Point Wildlife Sanctuary in Auburn and the Ponemah Bog in Amherst, have links to trail guides, maps, birding tips and more.

**36 The Manchester Cedar Swamp** (nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/manchester-cedar-swamp-preserve) offers free dawn-to-dusk trails of 1.8 miles that are universally accessible including to people using wheelchairs, strollers and other adaptive devices according to the website, where you can find a trail map and more.

City parks offer spots for picnics, playtime and other recreation. A few to check out:

**37 Mine Falls Park** features trails from roughly a third of a mile to nearly 3 miles; see nashuanh.gov/491/Mine-Falls-Park for a map.

**38 Stark Park** in north Manchester features a “Walk in the Woods” trail network, an outdoor nature playspace and more; see starkpark.com.

**39 Livingston Park** (manchesternh.gov) is a 131-acre park in north Manchester that features a playground, a summertime swimming pool, sports fields and facilities, and walking trails around Dorrs Pond, according to the website.

**40 White Park in Concord** features the Monkey Around Playground, a seasonal splash pad, basketball courts, an ice skating rink (weather permitting), walking trails and more, according to concordnh.gov.

**41 Watson Park in Merrimack** offers a gaga pit, picnic spots, a butterfly garden and ice skating (weather permitting); see merrimackpark-sandrec.org.

**42 The Educational Farm at Joppa Hill** in Bedford (theeducationalfarm.org) is free to visit daily, dusk till dawn, and features hiking, walking and cross country skiing trails (see maps on the website) as well as

farm animals to visit. Upgrade the experience by purchasing \$5 grain cups or by doing some shopping at the farm stand.

**43 Get state park admission for free** — sort of. In this case “free” is going to cost you about \$93. For an annual \$85, plus a one-time \$8 new license plate fee, you can get a New Hampshire State Park license plate for your car. The revenues from the plate go to the State Parks Fund, which helps pay for the operation of the parks, according to nhstateparks.org. The plates (with a current registration) get you free admission to more than two dozen state parks, including Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown, Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham and Wallis Sands State Park in Rye. See nhstateparks.org for details.

**44 The New Hampshire Astronomical Society** goes everywhere and they bring their telescopes. Check out their calendar (nhastro.com/calendar.php) to find a spot where you can meet up, talk **telescopes and sky watching** and get a look at the stars. Upcoming public appearances include a “sidewalk astronomy” session in Portsmouth on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 5 to 10 p.m. in Market Square; their monthly first Friday skywatch at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center in Concord on Friday, March 1, from 7 to 10 p.m., and a skywatch at Benedictine Park in Bedford on Monday, March 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. The Society is also holding presentations on the April eclipse at several area libraries, including Whipple Hall in New London (Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 5 p.m.), Kelley Library in Salem (Monday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m.), Baker Free Library in Bow (Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7 p.m.), the Concord Public Library (Tuesday, March 5, at 6 p.m.), Whipple Free Library in New Boston (Thursday, March 7, at 6 p.m.) and the Goffstown library (Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m.), as well as several more libraries in March.

**45 Take the NH Rail Trails Challenge!** Run, bike, walk, rollerblade or otherwise explore the state’s

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rail trails — there are 43 of them currently — in whatever time frame or increments you'd like and then complete a form at nrhrc.org. Bragging rights are free; \$10 gets you a patch to point to whilst bragging. Find out more about the challenge at an upcoming Bike Talk held by the New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. via Zoom; find the link to register via the group's Facebook page.

### FREE FUN & FREE GAMES

Here are some sports, family attractions and more free happenings.

**46** Enjoy a free(-ish) movie at Chunky's Cinema Pubs in Manchester, Nashua and Pelham with the monthly **Little Lunch Date** screenings of kid-friendly films in a kid-friendly screening room (lights not as dim, noise and squirming to be expected). The movies don't have an admission per se, though you reserve a seat by buying \$5 food vouchers to be used at the movie (there is also a \$1.25 service fee per ticket when purchased online). Next up is 2011's *Gnome & Juliet* (PG) on Friday, Feb. 16, at 3:45 p.m.

**47** Head to **winter farmers markets** for some free browsing and hobnobbing with local farmers and producers (and in some cases live music) and then upgrade the experience by buying treats for now and treats for later. The Downtown Concord Winter Farmers Market (downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket.com) runs Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at 7 Eagle Square; on Saturday, Feb. 17, musician Joel Begin performs. The Contoocook Farmers Market (find them on Facebook) spends its winters at the Maple Street School on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon; on Saturday, Feb. 17, Ryan Williamson performs. The Milford Indoor Farmers Market (milfordnhfarmersmarket.com) is open for two more Saturdays — Feb. 24 and March 9 — from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Milford Town Hall Auditorium on the Oval. The Salem New Hampshire Farmers Market (salemnhfarmersmarket.org) spends winters at LaBelle Winery in Derry (14 Route 111) on Sundays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**48** Regular season **Southern New Hampshire University basketball games** are free to attend and both Penmen women's and men's teams have three home games left — Saturday, Feb. 17, (1:30 p.m. women, 3:30 p.m. men) against Pace University; Saturday, Feb. 24 (1:30 p.m. women, 3:30 p.m. men) against Assumption University and Tuesday, Feb. 27, (5:30 p.m. women, 7:30 p.m. men)

against the College of Saint Rose. The games take place at Stan Spiro Field House (at the Southern New Hampshire University campus, 2500 River Road in Manchester). See snhupenmen.com.

**49** Meanwhile, **lacrosse season is starting for the SNHU Penmen.** The men's team has a home game against Molloy University scheduled Saturday, Feb. 17, at noon at Mark A. Ouellette Stadium on the SNHU campus (the stadium is on Victory Lane in Hooksett). The women's first home game is Saturday, March 16, at 1 p.m. versus Presbyterian College. Regular season games are free to attend; see snhupenmen.com for the schedule.

**50** **Lacrosse season is also starting at Rivier College** in Nashua, with the Rivier Raiders men's lacrosse team playing UMass Boston Saturday, Feb. 17, at noon, on Joanne Merrill Field at Linda Robinson Pavilion. The men will also face Curry College in the home game on Saturday, Feb. 24, at noon. The women will play Saint Joseph on Saturday, March 9, at noon. The games are free to attend. See rivierathletics.com.

**51** And then it's **baseball and softball season.** The **SNHU Penmen** baseball team plays a home game against the Saint Anselm Hawks at Penmen Field on Wednesday, March 27, at 3 p.m. The women's softball team will play a doubleheader against Mercy University at home on Saturday, March 23, with games at noon and 2 p.m. at the SNHU Softball Field (on Eastman Drive). The women will then play American International College on Sunday, March 24, at noon and 2 p.m. See snhupenmen.com for the schedule.

**52** The first home game for **Rivier Raiders men's baseball** will be Sunday, March 30, when they play a doubleheader against Norwich at noon and 3 p.m. at Historic Holman Stadium (67 Amherst St. in Nashua). The **women's softball** team plays at Raider Diamond and their first home game will be against Fitchburg State on Saturday, March 23, at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Games are free to attend. See rivierathletics.com.

**53** Get lessons in all things maple — from the sap gathering and syrup making process to a sample

day, Feb. 17, at noon, on Joanne Merrill Field at Linda Robinson Pavilion. The men will also face Curry College in the home game on Saturday, Feb. 24, at noon. The women will play Saint Joseph on Saturday, March 9, at noon. The games are free to attend. See rivierathletics.com.



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**FRIDAY 16**  
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<b>SAT 17</b>	A Musical Cooking Lesson with The Calamari Sisters	<b>2 &amp; 7:30PM</b>
<b>FRI 23</b>	An Evening with Singer Songwriter Vance Gilbert	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>SAT 24</b>	The Dave Matthews Tribute Band	<b>7:30PM</b>

## MARCH

<b>FRI 1</b>	Comedy at the Rex with Jimmy Cash and Friends!	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>SAT 2</b>	Symphony NH Present's: Penelope	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>FRI 8</b>	An Evening With David, Luke and Will Mallett	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>SAT 9</b>	Panorama: A Tribute to the Cars	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>SUN 10</b>	Good Looking 'Hank' and his Cowboy Drifters: A Tribute to Hank Williams Sr.	<b>2:00PM</b>
<b>FRI 15</b>	St. Patricks Day with The Spain Brothers	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>SAT 16</b>	Divas with a Twist in Concert	<b>2 &amp; 7:30PM</b>
<b>THUR 21</b>	Altan: Altan: Irish Folk Band	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>FRI 22</b>	New York City Comedy Night	<b>7:30PM</b>
<b>SAT 23</b>	Swiftie Spring Celebration	<b>2 &amp; 7:30PM</b>
<b>SAT 30</b>	Souled Out Show Band	<b>7:30PM</b>

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of the finished product — at area sugarhouses during **Maple Weekend**, this year scheduled for Saturday, March 16, and Sunday, March 17. Check with [nhmapleproducers.com](http://nhmapleproducers.com) for a listing of sugarhouses, many of whom offer samples of maple syrup and maple products as well as tours and more. And of course upgrade the experience by purchasing some fresh local maple syrup.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR “FREE”

There are actually a fair number of free events throughout the year, from the music and movies presented in parks to the town holiday celebrations and parades in December. Here are a few free happenings coming up in the next few months.

**54** Merrimack's **Winter Carnival** takes place Saturday, Feb. 24, from noon to 3 p.m. at Wasserman Park. This free event features games and activities including, at 1 p.m., the cardboard box sledding competition. See [merrimackparksandrec.org](http://merrimackparksandrec.org).

**55** Tickets are free for the upcoming **Sing-Along Piano Bar** nights at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; [cconh.com](http://cconh.com)) on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 6 p.m.; Sunday, March 24, at 6 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, at 6 p.m. Tickets are also free to the **Rockstar Karaoke** night on Saturday, May 11, at 7 p.m. See the website for details on these events.

**56** Get an up close look at the making of **kombucha** at a tour of Auspicious Brew in Dover, billed as the first licensed kombucha brewery in New Hampshire, on Monday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m. Register at [dovernh.assabetinteractive.com](http://dovernh.assabetinteractive.com).

**57** Check out the installation of a “**graffiti fiber art tree hugging project**” at Waldron Park in Dover on Saturday, March 2, at 1 p.m., according to a post on Dover Arts Commission's Facebook page.

**58** Remember the **Old Man in the Mountain** at the presentation “The Old Man: His Life and Legacy” on Saturday, March 16, at 11 a.m. at the Millyard Museum in Manchester ([manchesterhistoric.org](http://manchesterhistoric.org)).

**59** This year's **Black Ice Pond Hockey Championships** will take place Friday, March 22, through Sunday, March 24, at Tri-Town

Ice Arena in Hooksett. The games are free to watch. See [blackicepondhockey.com](http://blackicepondhockey.com) and the event's Facebook page for schedule updates.

**60** Manchester's **St. Patrick's Day Parade** will be Sunday, March 24, at noon, marching down Elm Street from Salmon Street, according to [saintpatnh.com](http://saintpatnh.com). Enjoy this free downtown event or upgrade your experience by participating in the Shamrock Shuffle (registration costs \$25 for adults), a 2-mile run/walk that starts at 11 a.m. and includes a post-race beer for of-age participants. See [millenniumrunning.com/shamrock](http://millenniumrunning.com/shamrock).

**61** On Monday, April 8, catch the **total solar eclipse** — but, like, safely. The eclipse is free but for \$2 (\$3 if you want it sent to you) you can get solar eclipse glasses from the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord ([starhop.com](http://starhop.com)). And you can head to the center for the “Great American Eclipse Viewing Party” from noon to 5 p.m. that day, with the eclipse predicted to begin at 2:15 p.m. and maximum Concord viewing at 3:29 p.m., according to the Center's website.

**62** The Manchester Community Music School will host the **May Gruber Memorial Concert** on Friday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m., with a special performance by cellist Aristides Rivas. Admission is free but registration is required; see [mcmusicschool.org/events](http://mcmusicschool.org/events).

**63** **Free Comic Book Day** — it's right there in the name! On Saturday, May 4, you can score free comic books specially created for this day, which often means they intro-



duce a character or storyline or otherwise help to bring in new readers. In our general area, both Double Midnight Comics locations (Concord and Manchester; [dmcomics.com](http://dmcomics.com)) participate, with Manchester doing the event up big with costume contests and more. Other

locations include Merrimack Games and Comics in Merrimack ([merrymacgc.com](http://merrymacgc.com)) and Collectibles Unlimited in Concord ([collectiblesunlimited.biz](http://collectiblesunlimited.biz)), according to [freecomicbookday.com](http://freecomicbookday.com), where you can often find previews of the books that will be available. For a Free Comic Book Day celebration that goes town-wide, check out Jetpack Comics in Rochester ([jetpackcomics.com](http://jetpackcomics.com)); score all the FCBD comics as well as other cool perks by volunteering to help out all day, according to the website. 🦸



## Brotherhood, family and one big hammer

Thor & Loki tale turns theatrical

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The Marvel Comic Universe meets *High School Musical*, sans big song and dance numbers, in *Hammered: A Thor & Loki Play*, to be performed by the Peacock Players youth theater group at the Janice B. Streeter Theatre in Nashua from Friday, Feb. 16, through Sunday, Feb. 18. The original work comes via Marvel Spotlight, a brand extension that aims to put a different spin on the comic book and blockbuster film franchise.

*Hammered* was written by two-time Tony-winning actor Christian Borle. In a 2019 video to promote Marvel Spotlight, Borle talked about liking the idea of using characters and comic tropes to get deeper into the superhero dynamic — while also shaking up the story a bit.

“In my universe, Loki is not the bad guy,” he said. “They drive each other

### Hammered: A Thor & Loki Play

**When:** Friday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.

**Location:** Janice B. Streeter Theatre, 14 Court St., Nashua

**Tickets:** \$12 to \$18 at peacockplayers.org

er crazy, but there’s a real fraternal bond between them. It’s brotherhood, family, and one big hammer.”

Directing the Peacock Players production is Samantha Searles, who grew up in southern New Hampshire and returned last November at the behest of Peacock Executive Director Elle Millar. Searle attended UNH’s Manchester campus and earned her undergraduate degree at Suffolk University in Boston.

“I’ve been a big fan of the Marvel Universe since I was in middle school, so to be able to work on it, with middle and high school kids, is really cool,” first-time director Searles said in a recent phone interview. “It’s fun, and we get to play around with accents, costumes and all that to bring it from big movies and TV to the stage.”

The hour-long play is set in a modern high school and revolves around a story, told by an aged Thor to his granddaughters, of life when he was a teenager.

“You travel between Earth through the eyes of some kids in the school, back through the cosmic void ... to Asgard,” Searles said. “This would take place after *Avengers: Endgame*, but before the *Loki* show.”

The earthbound protagonists are a jock

and a comic book nerd, patterned after Thor and Loki, but “they’re written to kind of subvert the traditional roles a little bit,” Searles observed. “The jock is actually interested in reading about Thor, which makes a lot of sense because Thor is the jock character, but he’s got a heart of gold ... hopefully, audiences will get a kick out of a different take on these classic characters.”

The teenage cast “is super talented and having a lot of fun together,” Searle continued. “So much fun that last week during rehearsal my asthma got triggered because I was laughing so hard. The show is quirky, really weird, and I’ve told them to lean into that. [For example], Asgardians live for thousands of years, so even though it seems like you’re teenagers you really have thousands of years of backstory and things; play around with that.”

The current show offered a unique opportunity for newcomers reluctant to try out for musicals, like *Once Upon a Mattress Youth Edition*, which opens March 17, and *Xanadu*, which runs May 12 to May 21. “It’s just a play, and that widens the number of kids we can have,” Searles said. “Not everyone’s a singer or a dancer.”

Auditions for a teen-centric produc-



Rehearsal for *Hammered: A Thor & Loki Play*. Courtesy photo.

tion of the Broadway hit *Six* will begin in June. Peacock Players welcomes new talent; the cast of *Hammered* also includes a first-timer.

“We can always use more kids,” Searles said. “Our tech and stage crew are largely kids too, and they get to learn about all the technology and stuff behind the scenes. There’s definitely lots of room for people to join.”

### Art

#### Exhibits

• **“40 YEARS OF PLAY”** The Children’s Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; [childrens-museum.org](http://childrens-museum.org)) continues its “40 Years of Play” exhibit through Thursday, Feb. 29, in Gallery 6. The exhibition includes artwork, puppets and other items that look back at the museum’s 40 years, including

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

• **“TOWARD THE NEW: A JOURNEY INTO ABSTRACTION”** at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; [currier.org](http://currier.org), 669-6144) through March 31. The Currier is open Wednesday and Friday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (with Art After Work, when admission is free, from 5 to 8 p.m.). Admis-

sion costs \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, \$5 for youth ages 13 through 17, and is free for children under age 13.

### Theater

#### Shows

• **CHILDREN OF EDEN** will run at the Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St. in Portsmouth; [seacoastrep.org](http://seacoastrep.org), 433-4472), through Sunday, Feb. 25. 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.

• **MAMMA MIA!** presented by the Londonderry High School Drama Club Thursday, Feb. 15, through Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. daily plus 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Derry Opera House (26 W. Broadway in Derry). Tickets to this show, which they rate as PG-13, cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students. See [lancerdramaclub.org](http://lancerdramaclub.org).

• **BEATING A DEAD HORSE** a comedy in which “two brothers on the brink of closing their failing pet funeral home ... until

an eccentric, rich old lady offers them a fortune for the funeral of her nearly dead racehorse.... There’s only one problem: the horse won’t die,” according to the Majestic Theatre website, will be presented by the Majestic (880 Page St. in Manchester; [majestictheatre.net](http://majestictheatre.net), 669-7469) on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 & 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 to \$20.

• **CIRQUE US**, described as a “band of inventive acrobats, high-flying aerialists, and quirky clowns” will perform at Stockbridge Theatre (5 Pinkerton St. in Derry; [stockbridgetheatre.showare.com](http://stockbridgetheatre.showare.com)) on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.

#### Classes/workshops

• **FOUNDATIONS OF IMPROV COMEDY WORKSHOP** presented by Cue Zero Theatre ([cztheatre.com](http://cztheatre.com)) at Arts Academy of New Hampshire (19 Keewaydin Drive, No. 4, in Salem). on Sunday, Feb. 18; register online (the cost is a suggested donation of \$40).

### Classical

• **MAHLER’S “RESURRECTION” SYMPHONY** will be presented by the New Hampshire Philharmonic on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. featuring choruses from Plymouth State University and Keene State University at Silver Center (114 Main St. in Plymouth). Tickets cost \$25 and \$30. The piece will also be performed at the Seifert Performing Arts Center (55 Geremonty Dr. in Salem) on Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25, at 2 p.m. (with a streaming option for the Sunday show). Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors and \$10 for students. See [nhphil.org](http://nhphil.org).

• **JEFF WARNER**, folklorist and traditional music performer, will perform Thursday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. in Studio A at the YMCA of Downtown Manchester (30 Mechanic St. in Manchester), for a show open to both members and non-members (non-members will need an ID), according to a Y Facebook post. See [jeffwarner.com](http://jeffwarner.com) for more on Warner and his music.

## A CONTINUATION OF LOVE

NSquared Dance Company will present *A Continuation of Love*, a dance performance and fundraiser featuring food, drinks, raffles, a silent auction and of course dance, on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 4 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org)). The event is presented by the New Hampshire Dance Collaborative, and many of the professional dancers from NSquared Dance Company are originally from New Hampshire, according to a press release. Tickets cost \$50. To learn more about NSquared, see [nsquareddance.org](http://nsquareddance.org); see [nhdancecollective.org](http://nhdancecollective.org) for more on their organization. *Courtesy photo.*





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## ARTS

# THE ROUNDUP

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

- **An Agatha Christie mystery:** The Community Players of Concord will present *Witness for the Prosecution*, the 1953 play by Agatha Christie about a man accused of murdering a rich widow, this weekend at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord). The play "covers a sensational murder trial both in the courtroom of London's 'Old Bailey' and behind the scenes in the barrister's chambers as the action unfolds," according to a press release. *Witness for the Prosecution* runs Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$18 for 65+ or 17 and under. See [communityplayersofconcord.org](http://communityplayersofconcord.org) for tickets and a cast list.

- **Celtic dance:** The Aaron Tolson Dance Institute will hold a Celtic Intensive on Tuesday, Feb. 20, and Wednesday, Feb. 21, with four separate classes each afternoon starting at 4 p.m. at the Dana Center for the Performing Arts on the campus of Saint Anselm College in Manchester ([tickets.anselm.edu](http://tickets.anselm.edu)). On Feb. 20 the classes will be intro to Cape Breton (4 p.m.), intro to Irish soft shoe (5 p.m.), intro to hard shoe (6 p.m.) and intro to Ceili dancing (7 p.m.), according to [tickets.anselm.edu](http://tickets.anselm.edu). Classes on Feb. 21 will be the intermediate versions of all those classes. A one-class pass costs \$30, a four-class pass costs \$100; see the website for details.

- **Open mic:** An open mic for writing of all kinds is held on the third Wednesday of each month at Bookery (844 Elm St. in Manchester; [bookerymht.com](http://bookerymht.com)) from 5 to



The cast of *Witness For the Prosecution*. Courtesy photo.

7 p.m. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, poet and artist Stephan Anstey will provide the featured reading, according to a press release. The event is free.

- **Art show:** The Prospect Hill Gallery Winter Art Show at Prospect Hill Antiques (31 River Road in Sunapee; [prospecthillantiques.net](http://prospecthillantiques.net)) will open Saturday, Feb. 17, at 3 p.m. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will feature artists from the Center for the Arts as well as other artists, such as Ron Brown, according to a Center for the Arts press release. See [centerfortheartsnh.org](http://centerfortheartsnh.org).

- **Youth auditions:** The Palace Youth Theatre will hold auditions for its April production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The auditions are performers in grades 2 through 12 with rehearsals generally Thursdays through Saturdays, according to an email from the Palace Youth Theatre. The auditions will take place Thursday Feb. 29, with sessions at 5, 6 and 7 p.m. at Forever Emma Studios (516 Pine St. in Manchester). After signing up for the auditions, performers will receive a list of monologues to choose from to perform at the audition, the email said. Contact [meganalves@palacetheatre.org](mailto:meganalves@palacetheatre.org) with performer's name, age and preferred audition time, the email said. 📧



## ON THE EXHALE

Theatre Kapow ([tkapow.com](http://tkapow.com)) presents *On the Exhale*, a full-length drama that "offers a complex examination of America's gun violence crisis," at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com)) on Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m., according to a press release. Carey Cahoon, Kapow co-founder and managing director, will play the sole character in the show. Tickets to the show cost \$33.75 (\$26.75 for seniors & students).

The Sunday, Feb. 18, show will feature ASL Interpretation as well as a post-show conversation about the impact of gun violence on New Hampshire, according to Theatre Kapow's website. The play will also run Friday, March 1, through Sunday, March 3, at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith. See [tkapow.com](http://tkapow.com) for tickets to either show. *Courtesy photo.*



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# INSIDE/OUTSIDE

## How to remove an abandoned car — legally

### CAR TALK



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk:*  
*Recently, a policeman pulled over a young driver in a Chevy Sonic right near our house, which has on-street parking. Backup was called in case things got serious, which they did not. ... The young man was soon picked up by a third party, the police left the scene, and this car has been sitting near our house for over a week. A close look through the windows indicates a lot of empty fast-food containers, pizza boxes ... I did notice the lack of a license plate and a temporary tag that had expired two months ago. I believe the car is now abandoned. We contacted the police, but they said it is legally parked, and they can't do anything. An idea has occurred to me to help create a sense of urgency to remove the car: If I could roll it backward about 40 feet, it would be on the yellow part of the curb, which would make it illegally parked. Is there a way I can disengage the wheels or enter the car without doing (much) damage to it so I can put it in neutral and roll it? — Bob*

Well, I can't recommend you break into

someone else's car, Bob. That would be illegal. Even if there's still uneaten pizza to be had. So, I would start by calling your town or city and asking for their policy on abandoned vehicles. Most municipalities have one. They'll consider a vehicle abandoned after it's sat, unmoved, on a public street for a certain amount of time. And at that point, you can ask for it to be removed. That won't be the quickest way to get rid of it, but it would be the most law-abiding.

Just for your information, we move cars at the garage all the time without driving them. We have something called a floor jack. It's a hydraulic jack on wheels, and it rolls underneath the front or back end of the car and then lifts that entire end off the ground.

That Chevy Sonic is front-wheel-drive. So, theoretically, if you lifted up the front wheels with a floor jack, and the handbrake was not applied, you could then roll the car to wherever you want to. But I can't, in good conscience, recommend you move another person's car without their permission.

*Dear Car Talk:*  
*After getting dealer service on my 2016 Toyota Corolla with 16,000 miles, the car*

*started to shake at 60 mph. I drove for a couple more months, but the shaking did not go away. I finally checked, and the tires were over-pressurized to 51 psi, 19 psi higher than indicated on the door pillar. The dealer evidently inflated the tires to what was the maximum pressure indicated on the tire itself, rather than the recommended pressure. I had them look at it again and they recommended new tires because I still had the original tires from the factory. I declined, opting instead to have the tires rebalanced. I spoke to the manager, who insisted that over-pressurization would not result in increased vibration, and that 7-year-old tires should be replaced anyway because they are easily damaged. He also emphasized that driving the car as little as I do can make the tires worse. A couple of questions: 1. Should I replace a 7-year-old set of tires with very low mileage on them? The treads are almost brand new. 2. Could over-pressurizing an old set of tires result in the wheels needing to be rebalanced? Thank you so much, Ray! — Sam*

Let's start with your high-speed shaking. Inflating tires to their maximum allowable pressure will not damage them or cause a

vibration. But it will cause a very hard ride. The most likely explanation for the vibration is that your tires were so overinflated that when you hit a pothole, the hard impact knocked off a wheel weight or two, causing your tires to go out of balance.

Did rebalancing the tires stop the high-speed shaking? If so, that's what happened. And honestly, the dealer should have rebalanced your tires for free, since he was responsible for grossly overinflating them, which probably contributed to the loss of wheel weights and your corrective dental work. Should your tires be replaced at 7 years old? Probably. Your dealer is right that over time, the rubber will start to degrade, even if there's still useful tread left.

Why does that happen? Mostly because ozone in the air degrades rubber. Tire manufacturers say, to be safe, tires should be replaced after six years. Obviously, they've got a vested interest in getting you to buy new tires. But even if you assume they're erring on the side of caution (and tire sales), I think 7- or 8-year-old tires should probably be replaced. As should any tires showing signs of dry rot or cracking on the sidewalls. Visit [Cartalk.com](http://Cartalk.com). 🍌



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**INSIDE/OUTSIDE**

# KIDDIE

## — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

**See a show**

- The Londonderry High School Drama Club will present *Mamma Mia!* Thursday, Feb. 15, through Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. daily plus 1 p.m. on Saturday at the Derry Opera House (26 W. Broadway in Derry). Tickets to this show, which they rate as PG-13, cost \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students. See [lancerdramaclub.org](http://lancerdramaclub.org).
- The young performers (students in grades 2 through 12) of the Palace Youth Theatre will present *Tuck Everlasting*, a musical based on the novel by Natalie Babbitt, on Tuesday, Feb. 21, and Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; [palacetheatre.org](http://palacetheatre.org)). Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for ages 6 to 12.

**Museum fun**

- The American Independence Museum ([independencemuseum.org](http://independencemuseum.org)) will hold **open play at the Folsom Tavern** (164 Water St. in Exeter) on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. through April, according to a press release. The Foy Family Library, where the open play takes place, features a coloring station, an 18th-century play kitchen, dress-up clothes and a reading nook, according to a press release.



The American Independence Museum.

Admission to open play costs \$5 per family.

**Family fun at the theater**

- For this month's Little Lunch Date at area Chunky's Cinema Pubs (707 Huse Road, Manchester; 151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua; 150 Bridge St., Pelham, chunkys.com) the film is *Gnomeo & Juliet* (G, 2011), which will screen at all three area Chunky's on Friday, Feb. 16, at 3:45 p.m. Save a seat by purchasing \$5 per person food vouchers online.
- At 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16, the Manchester Chunky's ([chunkys.com](http://chunkys.com)) will host family-friendly **Theater Candy Bingo**. Reserve a seat for \$10, which includes a \$5 food voucher and a box of movie theater candy that goes in the pot, according to the website. Each guest gets one bingo card and the goal is to play about eight rounds, the website said.
- And save the date for **all-ages trivia night** at the Manchester Chunky's on Sunday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m., when the theme is *Shrek*. Save your seats for a team of up to eight people for a \$5 food voucher. 🍌

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**INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT**

Dear Donna,  
 No time better than now to ask about these. They are paper heart boxes marked 'Japan' on the bottom. I have had them for years now and always wondered their age and what was the purpose.  
 Can you give me any information?  
 Thanks, Donna.  
 Lee



shows they are from between the late 1920s to 1940s. This is when that mark was used.  
 Lee, they are very sweet and made me smile. I would think the value on them would be in the \$15 range in good condition. Thanks for sharing your tiny treasures with us.

Dear Lee,  
 Belated happy Valentine's Day!  
 The purposes for your sweet paper heart boxes could be many. They are novelty boxes and could be for candy, jewelry, trinkets etc., for the holiday or for other love-related events.  
 The mark 'Japan' on the back bottom

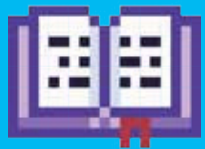
Donna Welch has spent more than 35 years in the antiques and collectibles field, appraising and instructing. Her new location is an Antique Art Studio located in Dunbarton, NH where she is still buying and selling. If you have questions about an antique or collectible send a clear photo and information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



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# ON THE JOB

## LEEANN FAY-ELLIS OWNER OF SMITTENS

LeeAnn Fay-Ellis is the owner of Smittens, a family-run business in Gilford that specializes in crafting mittens from upcycled and repurposed sweaters.

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

As a small business, so much of the job is staying organized. Scheduling events, accounting, ordering enough fleece for the liners, inventorying the stores we sell in and being sure we have enough product for each event. ... Searching and thrifting for good sweaters can be fun, especially when I get to shop with my daughter. My husband does all of the cutting and matching of patterns and colors before sending them to me to be sewn. This starts our assembly line process.

**How long have you had this job?**  
Smittens was started in 2011.

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

In 2011 I saw a vendor selling sweater mittens at a craft fair that our 10-year-old daughter was selling at. She did a trade with her for a pair of sweater mittens for me. When we got home and I tried them on again I realized they didn't fit well. I commented to my husband, David, that they felt more like an oven mitt and not very comfortable. He replied, 'Why don't you make your own?' So we did. We went to our local thrift store to stock up on sweaters,

found a pattern online, which I modified to tailor our mittens to fit better.

**What kind of education or training did you need?**

I have been a crafter for as long as I can remember. Both my mother and grandmother sewed and taught me the basics. I also took quilting classes. But as far as the modification of the sweater mittens, it was trial and error to get them to fit properly.

**What is your typical at-work uniform or attire?**

The majority of our work is done at home ... so I am fortunate to wear sweatpants or yoga pants and be as comfortable as possible. [For] during the selling season ... we had fleece vests made with our names by another local artisan (Forever Memories in the Mall of New Hampshire.)

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

Finding good wool sweaters. ... Another challenge is making enough to supply for the multiple stores we are in and events we do.



LeeAnn Fay-Ellis. Courtesy photo.

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

When we first started, we would only make two or three pairs at a time. We now focus on making 50 at a time and have more of an assembly line process.

**What do you wish other people knew about your job?**

We, like many artisans, create year-round and have a very limited selling time, especially with mittens. The unknown expenses can be great and what we sell each pair for is not what we actually make.

— Angie Sykeny 🍷

### Five favorites

- Favorite book:** *No More Excuses* by Sam Silverstein and *Don't Bullsh\*t Yourself! - Crush the Excuses* by Jon Taffer of Bar Rescue
- Favorite movie:** *August Rush*
- Favorite music:** My daughter's Spotify account! Music from the '70s to today.
- Favorite food:** Blackened Mahi Mahi
- Favorite thing about NH:** I love the beauty of the seasons. I was fortunate to grow up in the Lakes Region with the lakes and mountains as our backyard.

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# FOOD

## Get a taste of Africa

Learn from Mola Foods founder at Nashua North this spring

By Eleanor Quarles  
food@hippopress.com

### News from the local food scene

Compiled by Amy Diaz  
adiaz@hippopress.com

• **Unwined open:** The wine bar Unwined (1 Nashua St. in Milford; unwinednh.com) was slated to hold its grand opening on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and will be opening for reservations only through February, according to a post on its Facebook page, where you can also get a look at its menu. Offerings include bar snacks (such as curry toasted chickpeas and hand-cut fries with feta cheese, lemon zest and garlic oil served with a house aioli), salads, tapas (such as cheesy arancini, creamy bacon Brussels sprouts and fried calamari, as well as a mezze platter and cheese board), entrees and desserts.

• **Goings on at WineNot:** On Thursday, Feb. 22, from 4 to 7 p.m., WineNot Boutique (25 Main St. in Nashua; winenotboutique.com) will hold a “Tasting of Big and Bold Winter Wines.” Admission costs \$25. The evening will feature 15 wines paired with cheeses and a light appetizer, according to the event website.

• **Tasty vacation camp:** The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St. in Derry; culinary-playground.com, 339-1664) has some vacation week classes for kids. On Tuesday, Feb. 27, there’s an adult and child (age 5+) “Homemade pizza and cupcake decorating” class at 3 p.m. (\$45 for an adult/child team). On Wednesday, Feb. 28, there’s a “Sushi for T(w)eens” class at 3 p.m.; an adult/child team will make veggie and California rolls for \$55. On Thursday, Feb. 29, from 3 to 5 p.m. there’s a “Make-A-Meal” class (featuring baked chicken chimichanga, Mexican rice and Tres Leches Cake) for \$58 for an adult/kid pair (8+).

LaFortune Djabea, founder of local African food company Mola Foods, is bringing African cooking to New Hampshire. This spring Djabea will be hosting an African cooking course as one of Nashua Adult Education’s enrichment programs. The class will run on Thursday evenings from March 28 to June 6 at Nashua High School North.

The goal of the course is to introduce people to African foods and dive into the history and culture of the cuisine.

“Those who want to learn are welcome to join and learn how to cook authentic African food the simplest way possible,” Djabea said. The class is not only about introducing new dishes, but also about adapting them to be made easily at home.

If you’re still a beginner chef, don’t feel intimidated. When Djabea started learning to cook at 10 years old, she “didn’t have any knife skills or anything like that ... you just jump in and start!” she said. The class is open to all abilities. The only thing you need is a willingness to learn, she said.

Growing up in Cameroon, Djabea learned how to cook dishes from all over Africa. She credits this experience to Cameroon’s unique diversity among African countries.

“Cameroonians call themselves ‘the continent,’ as in the African continent, because

### African Cooking class

**When:** Thursdays, March 28 through June 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Nashua High School North, 8 Titan Way, Nashua

**Cost:** \$105 for Nashua residents, \$130 for non-residents, plus \$100 fee for lab/food

**Register:** [www.nashua.edu/domain/213](http://www.nashua.edu/domain/213)

we have all the other African countries [represented] in Cameroon,” she said. That environment gave her versatility, and she has a passion for sharing that with the community through her business, Mola Foods.

While the specific dishes taught in the class are still to be decided, Djabea shared two of her personal go-tos when introducing people to African cuisine. She likes to make thieboudienne, a Senegalese rice dish with fish and vegetables, of which Cameroon has its own Jollof version.

Another one of her favorites is ndolé, a classic Cameroonian dish made with ndolé (also known as bitter leaf) and meat or shrimp in a peanut sauce, eaten with boiled plantains or fermented cassava. When washed well, the ndolé leaves have a distinct bittersweet taste to them. To easily make the dish in New Hampshire, she often replaces ndolé with spinach, as it’s much easier to get, and peanuts with cashews, to accommodate peanut allergies.

African cuisine tends to be flexible that way. You can make a lot of dishes to be vegetarian, vegan, pescetarian, etc. Most diets can be accommodated, Djabea said.

In the class, students will get the chance to practice with everything: meat, poultry, fish and vegetables. They’ll use Mola Food’s spice blends to season dishes authentically without having to hunt down specific spices and ingredients that could be hard to find in stores here.

Mola Foods also hosts Taste of Africa dinners, where diners get a chance to try cuisine that is usually completely new to them. And these are not just food events; they’re cultural experiences with music, dancing and conversation. Djabea finds that some people come into the dinners not understanding African cuisine or having preconceived notions about it, but when they try the food,



Courtesy photo.

they love it.

There are 54 countries in Africa, she pointed out, so it’s impossible to get a taste of every country or even every region in one dinner, and every dinner is unique. There are not currently any upcoming Taste of Africa events scheduled, but they will be returning in the future.

It’s Djabea’s first time formally instructing a cooking course, but it’s not her “first rodeo” as an instructor, she said. She taught her kids and her best friend how to cook African cuisine, and before Mola Foods, she was a medical coding instructor for several years.

“It’s heartwarming to be able to go back and be an instructor again, this time just doing something that I love to do. I am excited to share the gift of cooking that my grandmother taught me when I was younger with the rest of the community that wants to join me,” she said.

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# DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

## The Brain Cell

About a week ago I found a truly excellent photo online of Walter the Muppet and the Great Gonzo posing for a selfie at Epcot Center. If you are unsure who Walter and Gonzo are, just know that they are extremely cool to nerdy Muppet enthusiasts.

I saved the picture to a file on my computer, not entirely sure what I would do with it. I have a habit of doing this; I have a collection of hundreds of funny, strange or just interesting pictures to attach to emails or use in presentations. I never know when one of them might come in handy, so I keep them around, just in case. Yes, I suppose this is hoarding, but it's *digital* hoarding, so at least I can still navigate my living room.

After an hour or so, I thought, "You know who would love this picture? The Artist." Our only child is a freshman at art school in Chicago, and this might make a nice surprise.

So I uploaded the photo to a drug store to be printed. Later that afternoon I picked up my prints, then went to an art supply store and bought a frame. I had to juggle a couple of cards and my cellphone at the register while I tried to find a coupon for the frame, and ended up throwing everything into my bag as I left the store, because I didn't want to hold up the line behind me.

When I mailed the framed Muppet photo to The Artist, I used the art supply store bag as cushioning, to protect the glass in the frame, and long story short, I'm pretty sure I mailed my debit card to Chicago.

I've dedicated this week's cocktail to my lone remaining brain cell.



The Brain Cell. Photo by John Fladd.

Strain over fresh ice in a rocks or coupé glass.

Sip, while listening to "Yalili Ya Aini," by Jah Wobble's Invaders of the Heart. It's a strange and beautiful song that will match your — OK, *my* — mental state.

This can be a slightly befuddling cocktail, even before you make it. The list of its ingredients are surprising, perhaps even intimidating.

Bourbon, bacon, banana and peanut butter don't seem to make a lot of sense together. And yet the combination works.

Many people are familiar with an "Elvis Sandwich" — peanut butter and banana. It seems pleasantly wacky, but the sweetness of the banana complements the proteinaceous solidity of the peanut butter. What most people *don't* know is that the sandwich Elvis Presley actually loved was a *grilled* peanut butter, banana and *bacon* sandwich. There's a common thread there of saltiness, sweetness and umami. (Clearly, my own exhausted brain cells have a strange priority in what they are dedicated to.)

So there's our drink's whiskey taken care of. We know that bourbon pairs well with sweet tastes, and certainly with other whiskeys. But won't that leave this drink too sweet? It would, if not for the lime juice, which brings everything back in line. Its acidity and fruitiness pair well with the peanut butter and banana flavors.

The ginger beer and the Tabasco give a little bit of a bite to the operation, and the ginger beer also adds a slight tingle of effervescence.

This is one of those cocktails that comes at you in waves. The bacon and peanut butter hit you first, followed by fruity, tingly aftertaste. You'll know that you like it, as soon as you taste it, but you will probably drink at least two of these, trying to wrap your head around it.

Without having to go to Chicago.

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

### The Brain Cell

- 1 ounce Ol' Major Bacon Bourbon
- 1 ounce Howler Head Banana Bourbon
- 1 ounce Skrewball Peanut Butter Whiskey
- 1 ounce fresh squeezed lime juice
- 1 ounce ginger beer – not ginger ale; this drink needs the extra bit of ginger
- 4 drops Tabasco sauce

Combine all three whiskeys, the lime juice, and the Tabasco over ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake to chill.

Add the ginger beer and stir gently.



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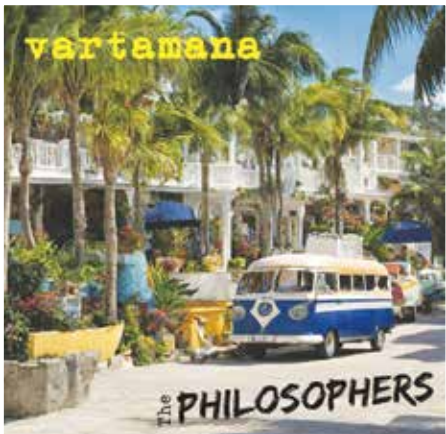
## Becky Hill, *Believe Me Now?* (Astralwerks Records)



As you know, I complain about a lot of things, but to be honest, Astralwerks Records has never sent me something I didn't like. This zillion-seller British dance-pop queen isn't a household name here in the States, although chances are good that you've heard her 2019 *Meduza* and Goodboys-guested single "Lose Control" someplace. Like a souped-up Kylie Minogue, she's all about the sexytime stuff, tinkering with drum 'n' bass, anthemic house, techno and atmospheric trance. Liftoff single "Side Effects" features Lewis Thompson, not that there's much he does to improve on the bouncy club-kitten beat

purring underneath. I *really* like "Disconnect," with its buzzy, woofer-zapping rinse-out noodlings holding Hill's early-Katy Perry-style voice aloft, and p.s., the absolutely stunning hook should come with a Surgeon General's warning. "Never Be Alone" is the ballad, spotlighting the Lorde/Adele sort of timbre that puts her voice at the top of her class. If anything, this stuff is too perfect. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

## The Philosophers, *Vartamana* (self-released)



Here we have a France-based sextet whose deeply mellow style more or less evokes a Weather Report-informed Miami Sound Machine, in other words the '70s jazz-pop vibe is strong in this one. Replace Chuck Mangione's trumpet with a sax and you'd be in the ballpark, but it leans more toward Sade in its level of chillness. It's the latest project from guitarist Mark Bullock, a British transplant who simply wanted to put together a group in which each musician's abilities were at least mildly tested. The project is ambitious enough, the standout piece being Alain Szpiro's sax, which tables some fine runs that

sound as though they cost a lot more to record than they likely actually did. Bullock's guitar keeps the tunes centered and balanced when he's not noodling away with some lead passages; singer Emline Gouban strives for a mixture of bedroom/lounge ambience, which she accomplishes sublimely, fitting in well enough with the rest of it. A —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

## PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Friday, Feb. 16, is on the way, and new albums are coming with it, so let's slog forward and get winter over with, shall we, folks? Actually, let's slog back to the Aughts era, when indie rock was so awful that many albums came stamped with a Surgeon General's warning that listening to their music would turn you into a toad, remember those days, fam, when college-rock taste was dictated by white Brooklyn scenesters, and it was all a big plot to legitimize Captain Beefheart or whatever the idea was? Ha ha, it was so awful, except for a brief part of the nu-rave scene, but other than that it was artists like **El Perro del Mar**, which is the stage name of Swedish singer Sarah Assbring, whose new album, *Big Anonymous*, is out this week! I literally hadn't heard any of this person's annoying music since around 2005, when I reviewed her self-titled debut LP in these very pages, so I've got quite a bit of catching up to do. Right, the last thing I heard from her was that album's minor hit, "Here Comes That Feeling," a mixture of French '60s girl-group unlistenability and Assbring's Betty Boop vocals. Listening to it now, I hope I trashed that stupid album from stem to stern most righteously, but chances are that I didn't, given that back then I was a relatively new player in the whole "making fun of bad bands in city newspapers" game, so I probably praised it just so that people would like me. Given that I no longer care about people liking me (there will always be haters no matter what, so what's the point), I shall now head over to the YouTube to see if Assbring still sucks as badly as she did 19 years ago. Oh come on, I'm listening to the new single, "Kiss of Death," and it's just a Sigur Ros-ified Lana Del Rey bringdown, slow and mildly shoegazey. The only good thing about it is that it's musical in its way, I wish she'd just give up. The video is gross and disturbing too, something about someone committing a moidah, and there's fake blood on the actress. This is what it's all come down to, folks, mediocrity and fake blood, let me try to forget I paid any attention to this nonsense.

• Lolol, it's **Jennifer Lopez**, with a new album, can you believe it, folks? Last I knew she was trying to lead a progressive house resurgence, or was that Britney, or was it all of them? Ha ha, who's she re-married to now, Ben Affleck or that rotten egomaniacal baseball man, A-Rod? You know she's just going to get re-divorced to whichever of those cheating alien clowns she's with, like, there'll be a spicy story in National Enquirer any minute now, even it's just completely misconstrued nonsense, a few pix of Affleck paying some Domino's driver for a pizza so he can "bulk up" in order to play the movie version of Broderick Crawford, get where I'm going with this? No? Well it doesn't matter, the point is that I have to go listen to something off J-Lo's new album, *This Is Me ... Now*. Yup, the title track is trance-infused Ke\$ha. Whatever.

• Uh-oh, it's California-based indie-rock band **Granddaddy**. I never liked anything I heard from them nor understood why they had so many fans. This should be a load of fun, because I forget what they sound like. Their new album, *Blu Wav*, is on YouTube, yes, the whole thing, so that's nice of them. I'm listening to the single, "Cabin In My Mind," and, ah, there we go, nowww I remember, their trip is sort of like a Guster-tinged Spacemen 3. Yesss, *that's* why hipsters liked them, because they're tedious.

• We'll wrap it up with *Adult Contemporary*, the new LP from **Chromeeo**, an electro-funk duo from Montreal, Canada; I never liked these guys either. This'll probably be '90s garage-house, their new single, "Personal Effects." Nope, it's their same old milquetoast trash, Weeknd meets Kool and the Gang. Spoiler alert: I totally hate it. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

**Nice** to be young

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**Good Material**, by Dolly Alderton (Knopf, 336 pages)

Whether it's because the holidays were unbearable or Valentine's Day is even worse, we're in the time of year that most breakups happen. If you happen to be nursing a broken heart, *Good Material*, the second novel by British writer Dolly Alderton, will be an excellent companion. And if you're not, it's a very good distraction from the post-holiday, mid-winter, my-team's-wasn't-in/didn't-win-the-Super-Bowl blahs.

The novel is centered around the debilitating heartbreak of Andy Dawson, a 35-year-old comedian who just broke up with Jen, his girlfriend of four years. He doesn't understand what happened — they'd just had a lovely weekend together in Paris, he mournfully tells friends, when Jen tells him that she doesn't want to be with him anymore. Unfortunately for Andy, that means he's not only out of a relationship, but out of housing — they'd lived together and Jen's salary had enabled them to live in much nicer housing than could Andy's cobbled-together income from comedy gigs and corporate training events.

There is also the not-insignificant problem of their friend group — Jen's close friend, Jane, is the wife of Andy's best friend, Avi, and the two couples had been besties for years, leading to all sorts of painful complications in the aftermath of the breakup when Andy moves in with the friends while he's searching for a place to live and monitoring his newly worrisome bald spot.

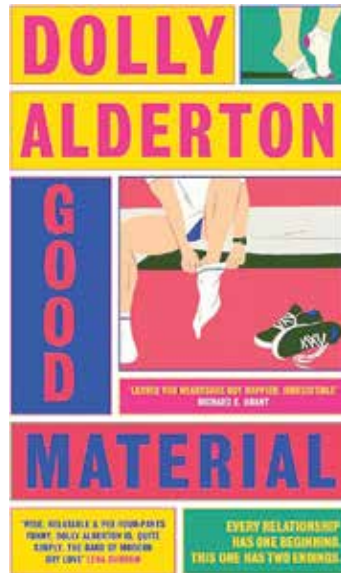
But all these problems are secondary to Andy's heartbreak, which he is desperately and unsuccessfully trying to rid himself of. When he passes a woman wearing Jen's signature perfume, for example, he goes to the store and buys all they have of that brand and pitches the bottles into a river, saying that's four fewer times he'll have

to smell Jen again. He obsesses for weeks over whether it's OK to send her a "happy birthday" text and, if so, what it should say. When that doesn't go well, he devises a list "of all the other possible events in the coming year that might open the gateway for casual texting," such as Christmas, his birthday, nuclear disaster and the death of someone they both know.

He tries engaging with other women, and even moving into a houseboat, in order to effect a fresh start. Friends beg him to stop thinking about her. Andy says he wishes he could, but "thinking about her is not a choice ... the room inside my mind that has been occupied by her for the last four years still exists. I want to convert it into a home gym or meditation room or get in a new tenant, but I can't."

Alderton wrote about love and loss in her 2021 memoir *Everything I Know About Love*, and she has been called a Nora Ephron (*Heartburn*) for millennials. Andy the lovelorn is evidence of her experience with the subject matter, as in when she writes of the couple awkwardly meeting to close a joint bank account post-breakup and Andy says it feels like he's encountering a celebrity: "A couple of months ago, Jen was the woman whose pants I put in the washing machine with mine when I put a load on. Now, she is unfamiliar and untouchable; someone I have a one-way relationship with in photos and memories and in my imagination."

But it's going to get even worse a few months later when Andy awakes in the morning to see "one of the worst texts you can wake up to other than being informed



of a death" — *Hey mate, saw what's happening online. Hope you're ok.*

As miserable as Andy is throughout much of the story, this is still a very funny book. The protagonist is a comedian, after all, who does things like making mental lists of what he would agree to do in order to have Jen be in love with him again (lose hair at the front of his head, go to her parents' house every weekend for lunch, never eat ham again) and Alderton's own comic sense powers even the darkest scenes. There's also a very funny subplot involving Andy's eventual landlord, a conspiracy theorist devoted to Julian Assange (there are lots of contemporary references throughout the book) who is trying to get a historical placard for his house because George Harrison once slept there.

In every relationship that fails, Andy reflects four months after the breakup, something called "The Flip" occurs, a change in who wields the most power in the relationship: "The person who is in charge in a relationship is the one who loves the least." This is among the relationship wisdom that *Good Material* imparts, another being that when we move on from one partner, we look for the next to provide in spades the 10 percent of whatever was missing from the last one.

But the greatness of the novel comes not from any of this, but from Alderton's decision to flip the perspective from Andy to Jen at the end of the book, finally answering Andy's lament, "Why did she break up with me?" — but only to the reader. It's a masterful technique, one that adds heft and complexity to a story that was already satisfying. **A** — *Jennifer Graham*

**Books**

**Author events**

- **WILLIAM R. GRASER**, author of *Smell the Gunpowder: The Land of the Morning Calm and Veterans' Reflections*, will be at Barnes & Noble in Manchester (1741 S. Willow St., 668-5557) on Saturday, Feb. 17, from noon to 4 p.m. to talk about and sign copies of his books.
- **AUDREY SCHULMAN**, author of *The Dolphin House*, will talk about the book on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 3 p.m. at Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com).
- **MARGO COOPER**, author of *Deep Inside the Blues: Photographs and Interviews*, will be at Gibson's

- Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. for a conversation with Holly Harris, host and producer of the radio show *Spinning the Blues*.
- **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 Tewks-

- bury 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 J.C. CLARK**, a Maine carpenter and author of the book of essays *Bjarki, Not Bjarki: On Floorboards, Love, and Irreconcilable Differences*, will be at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m.

**Poetry**

- **CHARD DENIORD** headlines the Poetry Society of NH gathering at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St.,

- Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 4:30 p.m. An open mic follows the reading. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged.
- **JENNIFER MARTELLI & JENNIFER JEAN** headline the Poetry Society of NH gathering at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Wednesday, March 24, at 4:30 p.m. An open mic follows the reading. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged.
- **SLAM FREE OR DIE**, an ongoing poetry open mic and slam series, takes place every Thursday night at Stark Brewing Co. (50 N. Commercial St., Manchester). Follow them on Facebook @slamfreeordie for updates.

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**POOR THINGS**  
 (R/2023/141 min.)  
**ZONE OF INTEREST**  
 (PG-13/2023/106 min.)  
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**Lisa Frankenstein (PG-13)**

A 1980s teen, like, totally grieving for her deceased mother while everybody, even her father, has moved on, finds a friend in a long dead, suddenly reanimated floppy-haired boy who looks good in a Violent Femmes shirt in *Lisa Frankenstein*, a movie written by Diablo Cody and directed by Zelda Williams (daughter of Robin).

Lisa Swallows (Kathryn Newton) is the new kid in school, in this her senior year, because she and her dad (Joe Chrest) have moved in with his new wife Janet (Carla Gugino) and her teen daughter Taffy (Liza Soberano). Lisa was already deeply traumatized by her mother's death — at the hands of a serial killer while Lisa hid in a nearby closet, according to Taffy — and seems further traumatized by her father's remarrying within months and then moving them to a new town. Lisa barely speaks and doesn't socialize much despite popular Taffy's genuine and basically good-hearted attempts to pull her out into high school society.

Lisa does allow herself to be dragged to a party where she sees Michael Trent (Henry Eikenberry), head of the high school's literary magazine, who she is crushing on. Attempts to flirt with him get sidetracked by Tamara (Joey Bree Harris), a gothy girl clearly also crushing on Mike. Tamara sarcastically offers Lisa her drink and Lisa, to prove she's not the quiet shut-in everyone thinks she is, takes a big swig of it. Unfortunately, it's a weird high school "wine punch"-or-something drink and she immediately finds herself drunk or high or maybe both. After some puking and dodging a boy who tries to get non-consensual, Lisa runs out of the party and into a nearby overgrown graveyard.

Luckily, Lisa is familiar with Bachelor Grove Graveyard — she often hangs out



*Lisa Frankenstein*

there taking rubbings of the headstones and doing other sad-girl things. She even has a favorite headstone, the headstone of a man (the only part of his name we can see is the "ein" end of his last name) whose monument includes a bust with his sad pale face.

As we learned in the movie's opening shadow-puppet credits, this man was an old-timey unmarried guy who played piano and fell in love with a woman who left him for what I think was a mandolin player. He mopes around and is later killed by a lightning strike.

In the present (late 1980s) day, as Lisa is stumbling around the graveyard, she finds his grave. She had given him her mother's rosary and as she contemplates her crappy night she makes a wish that she could be with him. Meaning, as she later explains, that she wishes she could be six feet under. But the universe and a mysterious green lightning strike takes it the other way and sends the somewhat decomposed and missing-some-parts man, listed in

IMDb as The Creature (Cole Sprouse), back above ground.

The next evening, as Lisa watches a scary movie, the Creature comes stumbling and moaning into her house. She is at first all screaming and running and throwing horrible Janet's horrible Precious Moments figurines at him. But then she figures out who he is — thanks to a grave rubbing and some pointing (a tongue is one of the parts the Creature is missing). She gets him to take a shower and to keep the crying to a minimum — his tears smell like a hot carnival toilet, she says — and change clothes, eventually finding the kind of blazer-and-band-shirt combo you could picture on a John Cusack character of the same vintage. The Creature becomes someone she can talk to about her feelings and her crush on Michael. He is so nice that when he semi-accidentally kills Janet, Lisa helps him bury Janet's body and sew Janet's ear on to the spot where one of his ears has gone missing. At first it doesn't fully become a part of

him but then Lisa remembers Taffy's malfunctioning tanning bed that electrocutes everybody who uses it.

As the Creature continues to replace his missing parts, he also helps Lisa improve her fashion sense, going from "clothes that make you invisible" to "late 1980s Winona Ryder character at the prom." He also gets hotter every time he electrocutes himself, going from "obviously undead" to "lightly made-up goth boy."

There's a lot here in this emo rom-com with a *Heathers* throwback vibe that reaches the level of "cute" or even "sorta funny" and there is a genuine human relationship between Lisa and Taffy that you could really build something on. The movie sets a tone that had me willing to go along with whatever silliness it wanted to give me. But, unlike the Creature, this thing never quite zapped to life for me, the nostalgic setting and classic horror movie allusions and extreme examples of crimped hair just didn't pull together into something that was more than what you get just by hearing the phrase "Diablo Cody writes an '80s set horror comedy love teen story." There is a sharpness missing in the comedy or in the romance or somewhere in the mix of this movie that would elevate it from just a throwback curio.

Even though I'd place this movie at around a C+ I'm ultimately not sorry I watched it and, when it is inevitably available for streaming at home, I suspect it will feel like a passable B-.

*Rated PG-13 for violent content, bloody images, sexual material, language, sexual assault, teen drinking and drug content, according to the MPA on [filmratings.com](https://www.filmratings.com). Directed by Zelda Williams with a screenplay by Diablo Cody, Lisa Frankenstein is an hour and 41 minutes long and distributed in theaters by Focus Features.* 🍷

**Film****Venues****Chunky's Cinema Pub**

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

**Fathom Events**

Fathomevents.com

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

**The Music Hall**

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

**O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square**

24 Calef Hwy., Epping, 679-3529,

oneilcinemas.com

**Park Theatre**

19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org

**Red River Theatres**

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

**Rex Theatre**

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

**Wilton Town Hall Theatre**

40 Main St., Wilton, wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-3456

**Screenings**

• *American Fiction* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in

Concord on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 4:30 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 16, through Sunday, Feb. 18, at 1 and 6:45 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 19, through Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6:45 p.m.

• *Poor Things* (R, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 4 and 7 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 16, through Thursday, Feb. 22, at 3:45 p.m.

• *The Zone of Interest* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 4:15 and 6:45 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 16, through Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2, 4:15 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 18, through Thursday, Feb. 22, at 4:15 & 7 p.m.

• *Poor Things* (R, 2023) will

screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.

• **Oscar nominated Shorts — Animated** will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 12:30 & 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 19, through Thursday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m.

• **Oscar Nominated Shorts — Live Action** will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 19, through Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m.

• **Oscar Nominated Shorts — Documentary** will screen at Red

River Theatres in Concord on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m.

• *The Zone of Interest* (PG-13, 2023) will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Friday, Feb. 16, at 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, Feb. 17, at 1:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 18, at 4:15 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 20, through Thursday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m.

• *Killers of the Flower Moon* (R, 2023) will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Friday, Feb. 16, at 1 & 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 25, at 3:30 p.m.

• *Gnomeo & Juliet* (G, 2011) will screen at all three area Chunky's on Friday, Feb. 16, at 3:45 p.m.

• *In the Heat of the Night* (1967)

will screen at Park Theatre in Jaffrey on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

• *Why Worry?* (1923), a silent film starring Harold Lloyd and featuring live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre.

• *Dune* (1984) will screen in a 40th anniversary presentation via Fathom Events on Sunday, Feb. 18, at AMC Londonderry (4 & 7 p.m.), Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem (4 p.m.), Regal Concord (7:30 p.m.) and Regal Fox Run in Newington (4 & 7:30 p.m.) and on Monday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m. at AMC Londonderry, Cinemark in Salem and Regal Concord at 7:30 p.m. at Regal Fox Run.



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By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Dad tribute:** The first song A.J. Croce recorded from his father's catalog after doing *Croce by Croce* concerts for many years was "I Got A Name." When Jim Croce died in a 1973 plane crash, his son was 2 years old. Later, one way he got to know him was by studying reels of tape for clues to his artistic process; this led him to realize that they both loved the same American Songbook artists. Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$53.75 and up at ccanh.com.

• **Rock's voice:** When Deep Purple made the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, **Glenn Hughes**, their co-vocalist and bassist in the mid-'70s, was among those accepting the honor. Hughes plays Deep Purple classics at a local show, with Enuff Z'Nuff opening. Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$50 and up tupelohall.com.

• **Laugh time:** Monthly comedy shows continue at a grand buffet Italian restaurant with **Paul Nardizzi** topping a lineup that also includes Dave Rattigan and Chris Cameron; arrive early for the food and stay for the hilarity. Former Boston Comedy Festival winner Nardizzi has appeared on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, Comedy Central, NESN and Fox Sports' *Best Damn Sports Show Period*. Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 pm., Cello's Farmhouse Italian, 143 Raymond Road, Candia, \$30 at eventbrite.com.

• **Duo show:** A release show celebrates *Call and Response*, a new EP from **Matt Pond PA & Alexa Rose**, who decided to connect and make music together after Rose name-checked the band in her song "Wild Peppermint." The disc includes a lovely take on the Verve's "Bittersweet Symphony" and the original "Side Eye Rolls," a Tom Petty-esque rocker that nods to *The Big Lebowski's* rug. Sunday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., The Word Barn, 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, \$16 and up at portsmouthtickets.com.

• **Celtic connection:** With less than a month until St. Patrick's Day, it's a good time to enjoy the weekly **Irish Sessions** at a venerable Concord pub, recently revived after a long hiatus. Settle into a six-dollar pint of Guinness or Smithwick's, or a Black & Tan combo of the two, paired with fish and chips, beef stew or a Dublin burger, alongside a lively and frequently surprising evening of traditional music. Tuesday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m., The Barley House, 132 N. Main St., Concord, thebarleyhouse.com. 🍷

# NITE

## Still standing (up)

Kathy Griffin's 'My Life on the PTSD List' hits Portsmouth

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Every comic has their story about a joke that didn't land, and the heckler or projectile that resulted. For Kathy Griffin, an ill-considered attempt to riff on Donald Trump's "blood coming out of her whatever" comment about debate moderator Megyn Kelly was more consequential. She lost jobs, lost friends and, worse, unleashed a federal investigation — all because of a photo of her holding a ketchup-soaked mask.

It turned out that was just one of many setbacks for Griffin. Along with repeatedly being detained by Interpol during a world tour documented in the film *Hell of a Story*, she lost her sister to cancer, her mother and longtime foil died at the start of the Covid pandemic, and Griffin herself battled both a pill addiction and lung cancer.

Beyond all that turmoil, she found a way to laugh, even at being the target of a weaponized government.

"I make fun of all of it," Griffin said by phone from her home in Malibu. "After this long and storied career, to think that I was under investigation by the DOJ and then diagnosed with PTSD, like I'm a combat veteran or something? You *have* to laugh at it. There's too much comedy there."

For example, her cancer, which resulted in the removal of half a lung. "I'm cancer-free, and I'm a proud member of the one-and-a-half lungs community, which needs a face for the brand," Griffin said. "I'm doing it for free, gratis and happily, and I don't appreciate you flaunting your two lungs in my face."

There is, however, one topic she's trying to steer clear of. "I will say — shocker — as of this moment, I don't mention Trump at this new show. It's not like I'm afraid of him or anything because he can't really do anything worse than he already has." She polls the audience at most shows to gauge whether they're interested in the political or personal and goes from there.

On Feb. 2, she opened in Des Moines,

### An Evening with Kathy Griffin

**When:** Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m.  
**Where:** The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth  
**Tickets:** \$57.50 and up at themusichall.org

Iowa, to a decent-sized crowd, but not every market is as welcoming. With conservative celebrities like Laura Loomer working to re-ignite the outrage that derailed Griffin's career in 2017, ticket sales are lagging for shows in red states like Texas, Kentucky and Indiana. However, less than 100 or so seats remain for her "My Life on the PTSD List" tour stop in New Hampshire.

Many likened the backlash she received to The Dixie Chicks in the aughts — even that band's singer Natalie Maines reached out to Griffin to offer support. "That was so cool," she said. "We were going to get together, then something happened, and we couldn't. But I want to find her number again and say, remember me? Let's do it."

Still, the band now called The Chicks was able to go on tour and make an album with Rick Rubin. Griffin lost much more, for a longer time. Comparisons to Lenzy Bruce's obscenity battles in the 1960s also miss the point, she continued. "He had cops arrest him, not the feds. I even called Kelly Carlin, George's daughter, and she said the same thing ... 'My dad never had the feds.' This was a full investigation, testifying under oath, and the no-fly list."

The comedian famous for never meeting a line she wouldn't cross eventually learned to lean into the firestorm she'd created.

"I don't care if you're a stay-at-home mom or you have an office job, but to then not be doing that which you do for six long years, and to have it come at the behest of the f-ing president, that was the awful part," she said. "The phone not ringing, the people turning on me, the networks telling me, 'We love you; we think you're funny, but you're too toxic for Middle America' is of course something I took as a challenge."

Ironically, Griffin's number is on a special kind of speed dial list.

"I'm the patron saint of celebrities who've gotten canceled for screwed up reasons, and so I will get called," she said. "Bette Midler called me one time during the Trump's administration ... he was mad at her about a tweet, and she got a call from the Secret Service. She wanted to know what to do and I'm like, do this, this and this, and you say this, and don't say this."

On the other hand, "Don't talk to me about the people who deserve to get can-



Kathy Griffin. Courtesy photo.

celed," she continued. "The ones who pissed off the previous administration, I know how to handle those calls. Like, Rudy Giuliani's daughter ... she contacted me and she's like, 'I'm so embarrassed about my dad, what do I do?' I said, 'You're stuck with him, honey, just smile and stay gay.' She's like, 'I love you!' So, I never know about what kind of calls I'm going to get."

Did any positives come out of her ordeal? "Honestly, I don't have a lot of good news to report except that it gave me clarity," she said. "Most of the people that turned on me are still turned against me ... it's particularly people in my industry. I'm just going to call it out, and of course I'll get in trouble for this as usual, but it was old white guys who identify with Trump far more than they identify with me."

Griffin is excited to be back in front of audiences. Much of her new cadre of material sticks to the celebrity-dragging and barbs that helped feed her success.

"I've always been a magnet for crazy, that's a gift that I've accepted and no longer fight, so, I go into certain situations sometimes, and I just know they're going to be comedy gold," she said. "I have a whole new half hour about going to Paris Hilton's Christmas party that I cannot wait to talk about in Portsmouth. Because it was like a time capsule. First of all, she looks exactly the same, she still wears the pink sparkly dresses and such. It was like going back to 2003. Nothing has

CONTINUED ON PG 36 ▶



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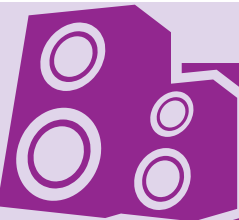


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# MUSIC THIS WEEK

<b>Alton Bay</b> Dockside Restaurant 6 East Side Drive, 855-2222	<b>Concord</b> Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	<b>Derry</b> Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946	18 Weirs Road, 293-0841	<b>Henniker</b> Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road 888-728-7732	799 Union Ave., 528-2022	<b>The Foundry</b> 50 Commercial St., 836-1925	1050 Bicentennial Drive, 625-1730
<b>Foster's Tavern</b> 403 Main St., 875-1234	<b>Lithermans</b> 126 Hall St., Unit B	<b>Dover</b> Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240	<b>Goffstown</b> Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230	<b>Hudson</b> The Bar 2B Burnham Road	<b>Litchfield</b> Day of the Dead Mexican Taqueria Mel's Funway Park 454 Charles Bancroft Highway, 377-7664	<b>Fratello's</b> 155 Dow St., 624-2022	<b>South Side Tavern</b> 1279 S. Willow St., 935-9947
<b>Auburn</b> Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564	<b>Tandy's Pub &amp; Grille</b> 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	<b>Cara Irish Pub &amp; Restaurant</b> 11 Fourth St., 343-4390	<b>Hampton</b> CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929-7972	<b>Luk's Bar &amp; Grill</b> 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	<b>Londonderry</b> Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437-2022	<b>The Goat</b> 50 Old Granite St., 625-4444	<b>Stark Brewing Co.</b> 500 Commercial St., 625-4444
<b>Bedford</b> Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677	<b>Uno Pizzeria</b> 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667	<b>Epping</b> Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225	<b>L Street Tavern 603</b> 17 L St., 967-4777	<b>Lynn's 102 Tavern</b> 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	<b>Murphy's Taproom</b> 494 Elm St., 644-3535	<b>Great North Aleworks</b> 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789	<b>Strange Brew</b> 88 Market St., 666-4292
<b>Murphy's Carriage House</b> 393 Route 101, 488-5875	<b>Contoocook Farmers Market</b> 896 Main St., 746-3018	<b>Epsom</b> Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027	<b>Shane's Texas Pit</b> 61 High St., 601-7091	<b>Jaffrey</b> Park Theatre 19 Main St., 532-9300	<b>Manchester</b> Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	<b>The Hill Bar &amp; Grille</b> McIntyre Ski Area 50 Chalet Ct., 622-6159	<b>Wild Rover</b> 21 Kosciuszko St., 669-7722
<b>Bow</b> Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	<b>Gould Hill Farm &amp; Contoocook Cider Co.</b> 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811	<b>Farmington</b> Hawg's Pen 1114 Route 11, 755-3301	<b>Smuttynose Brewing</b> 105 Towle Farm Road	<b>Kingston</b> Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962	<b>Bonfire</b> 950 Elm St., 663-7678	<b>KC's Rib Shack</b> 837 Second St., 627-RIBS	<b>Meredith</b> Twin Barns Brewing 194 Daniel Webster Hwy., 279-0876
<b>Candia</b> The Barnyard / Town Cabin Pub 285 Old Candia Road, 483-4888	<b>Deerfield</b> The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	<b>Wally's Pub</b> 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954	<b>Whym Craft Pub &amp; Brewery</b> 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	<b>Laconia</b> Cactus Jack's 1182 Union Ave., 528-7800	<b>Derryfield Country Club</b> 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	<b>Puerto Vallarta Mexican Grille</b> 865 Second St., 935-9182	<b>Merrimack</b> Homestead 641 Daniel Webster Hwy., 429-2022
				<b>Fratello's</b>		<b>Salona Bar &amp; Grill</b> 128 Maple St., 624-4020	<b>Tortilla Flat</b> 595 Daniel Webster Hwy., 424-4479
						<b>Shaskeen Pub</b> 909 Elm St., 625-0246	<b>Milford</b> The Pasta Loft 241 Union Square, 672-2270
						<b>Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse</b>	<b>Riley's Place</b> 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480

## Thursday, Feb. 15

**Auburn**  
Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.

**Bedford**  
Copper Door: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

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

**Candia**  
Town Cabin Pub: Dani Sven, 6 p.m.

**Concord**  
Lithermans: Charlie Chronopoulos, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Dover**  
Auspicious Brew: Megan From Work, Rangus, Milk St., 8 p.m.

**Epping**  
Telly's: Dave Clark, 7 p.m.

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

**Farmington**  
Hawg's Pen: open mic, 7 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: D-Comp, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
CR's: Dog Fathers, 6 p.m.  
Wally's: open mic, 8 p.m.  
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

**Hudson**  
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

**Kingston**  
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/ DJ Jason, 7 p.m.

**Laconia**  
Cactus Jack's: Freddie Catlfo, 7 p.m.  
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
Stumble Inn: Wood Wind & Whiskey, 7 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Fratello's: Chris Taylor, 5:30 p.m.  
Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.  
Shaskeen: Sink with Me, Stand Abandoned, Empty Halls, 8 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: Henry LaLiberte, 5:30 p.m.  
Tortilla Flat: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m.  
Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.  
San Francisco Kitchen: David Hamburger, 7 p.m.  
Shorty's: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.

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

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.  
Napoletana: Max Sullivan, 7:30 p.m.

**Salem**  
Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

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

**Epping**  
Telly's: Rob & Jody, 8 p.m.

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle: Chuck & John, 6 p.m.

**Hampton**  
CR's: Dog Fathers, 6 p.m.  
The Goat: Mike Forgette, 9 p.m.  
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.  
Wally's: Pop Daddy, 9 p.m.

**Hudson**  
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

**Friday, Feb. 16**

**Alton Bay**  
Dockside: music bingo, 7 p.m.  
Foster's Tavern: Dan Fallon, 6 p.m.

**Auburn**  
Auburn Pitts: NKM, 7 p.m.

**Bedford**  
Murphy's: Ken Budka, 6 p.m.

**Brookline**  
Alamo: Chris Powers, 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 [adiaz@hippypress.com](mailto:adiaz@hippypress.com).



## COWBOY TAKE ME AWAY

Little did Cowboy Junkies know when they recorded their breakthrough album *The Trinity Session* in one afternoon that their reverb-heavy, country-influenced sound would influence a generation of dreamy bands. They return to the Colonial (609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, [coloniallaconia.com](http://coloniallaconia.com)) on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$39 to \$69, plus fees.



<b>Stonecutters Pub</b> 63 Union Square, 213-5979	<b>San Francisco Kitchen</b> 133 Main St., 886-8833	Mt. Sunapee Resort, 1298 Route 103	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>The Gas Light</b> 64 Market St., 430-9122	6656	2033	920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706	<b>Windham</b> <b>Windham Restaurant</b> 59 Range Road, 870-9270
<b>Moultonborough</b> <b>Buckey's</b> 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485	<b>Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse</b> 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070	<b>Northfield</b> <b>Boonedoxz Pub</b> 95 Park St., 717-8267	<b>The Goat</b> 142 Congress St., 590-4628	<b>Napoletana</b> 14 Market Sq., 570-3610	<b>Luna Bistro</b> 254 N. Broadway, 458-2162	<b>Red's Kitchen + Tavern</b> 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030	
<b>Nashua</b> <b>Casey Magee's Irish Pub</b> 8 Temple St., 484-7400	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's Tavern &amp; Restaurant</b> 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362	<b>Penacook</b> <b>American Legion Post 31</b> 11 Charles St., 753-9372	<b>Grill 28</b> Pease Golf Course, 200 Grafton Road, 766-6466	<b>Press Room</b> 77 Daniel St., 431-5186	<b>T-Bones</b> 311 South Broadway, 893-3444	<b>Somersworth</b> <b>Earth Eagle North</b> 350 Route 108, 841-5421	
<b>Fody's Tavern</b> 9 Clinton St., 577-9015	<b>Newbury</b> <b>Goosefeathers Pub</b>	<b>Pittsfield</b> <b>Over the Moon</b> 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162	<b>Mojo's West End Tavern</b> 95 Brewery Lane, 436-	<b>Rochester</b> <b>Porter's</b> 19 Hanson St., 330-1964	<b>Seabrook</b> <b>Backyard Burgers &amp; Wings</b> 5 Provident Way, 760-2581	<b>Sunapee</b> <b>The Livery in Sunapee Harbor</b> 58 Main St., thelivery.	
<b>Salem</b> <b>Copper Door</b> 41 S. Broadway, 458-					<b>Chop Shop Pub</b>		

<b>Jaffrey</b> <b>Park Theatre:</b> Ashuelot Concert, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Derryfield:</b> Small Town Stranded, 8 p.m.	<b>Show,</b> 8:30 p.m.	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Contoocook</b> <b>Contoocook Farmers Market:</b> Ryan Williamson. 9 a.m.	6 p.m.
<b>Laconia</b> <b>Fratello's:</b> Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.	<b>Foundry:</b> Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.	<b>Riley's:</b> Stone Hill Station, 8 p.m.	<b>Penacook</b> <b>American Legion Post 31:</b> Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.	<b>Dover</b> <b>Auspicious Brew:</b> Cozy Throne, Sweetboy, Gull Teeth, 8 p.m.	<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.
<b>Litchfield</b> <b>Day of the Dead:</b> music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Fratello's:</b> Joe Winslow, 6 p.m.	<b>Stonecutters Pub:</b> DJ Dave O'karaoke, 9 p.m.	<b>Portsmouth</b> <b>Gas Light:</b> Colin Hart, 9:30 p.m.	<b>Epping</b> <b>Telly's:</b> Jonny Friday Duo, 8 p.m.	<b>Stumble Inn:</b> Off The Record, 8 p.m.
<b>Londonderry</b> <b>Coach Stop:</b> Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.	<b>Shaskeen:</b> Diamond Edge, Mystic Angel, Day to Attend, 9 p.m.	<b>Moultonborough</b> <b>Buckey's:</b> karaoke w/ DJ Goulet, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Gas Light:</b> Colin Hart, 9:30 p.m.	<b>Gilford</b> <b>Patrick's Pub:</b> Sunshine Street, 6 p.m.	<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Garrett Smith, 6 p.m.
<b>Stumble Inn:</b> Kitchen Party, 8 p.m.	<b>South Side Tavern:</b> Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.	<b>Nashua</b> <b>Casey Magee's:</b> karaoke, 9:30 p.m.	<b>The Goat:</b> Chris Toler, 9 p.m.	<b>Goffstown</b> <b>Village Trestle:</b> The Bar Hoppers, 6 p.m.	<b>Bonfire:</b> Martin and Kelly, 9 p.m.
<b>Manchester</b> <b>Backyard Brewery:</b> Chris Lester, 6 p.m.	<b>Strange Brew:</b> David Rousseau, 8 p.m.	<b>San Francisco Kitchen:</b> Tyler Levs, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Grill 28:</b> Doug Mitchell, 6 p.m.	<b>Hampton</b> <b>The Goat:</b> Chris Toler, 9 p.m.	<b>Derryfield:</b> Henry LaLiberte Band, 8 p.m.
	<b>Meredith</b> <b>Twin Barns:</b> Dave Zangri, 5 p.m.	<b>New Boston</b> <b>Molly's:</b> Richard Wallace, 6:30 p.m.	<b>Salem</b> <b>Luna Bistro:</b> Phil Jacques, 7 p.m.	<b>L Street:</b> karaoke, 9 p.m.	<b>Fratello's:</b> Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.
	<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.	<b>Northfield</b> <b>Boonedoxz Pub:</b> karaoke night,	<b>Windham</b> <b>The Windham:</b> Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m.	<b>Wally's:</b> 80's Rewind Party, 9 p.m.	<b>The Foundry:</b> Ken Budka, 6 p.m.
	<b>Milford</b> <b>Pasta Loft:</b> Sweet & Co Rock		<b>Brookline</b> <b>Alamo:</b> The Incidentals, 6 p.m.	<b>Whym:</b> Dave Clark, 6:30 p.m.	<b>The Goat:</b> Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.
			<b>Concord</b> <b>Farmers Market:</b> Joel Begin, 9 a.m.	<b>Henniker</b> <b>Pats Peak:</b> The McMurphys, 6 p.m.	<b>Great North Aleworks:</b> Kevin Horan, 4 p.m.
				<b>Jaffrey</b> <b>Park Theatre:</b> Bernie & Louise Watson, 5:30 p.m.	<b>The Hill:</b> Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.
				<b>Laconia</b> <b>Fratello's:</b> Richard Cummings,	<b>Shaskeen:</b> emo night, 9 p.m.
					<b>Strange Brew:</b> Hi-Fi Sound System, 9 p.m.
					<b>Wild Rover:</b> Kate Ivy, 5 p.m.
					<b>Meredith</b> <b>Twin Barns:</b> Rebecca Turmel, 5 p.m.
					<b>Merrimack</b> <b>Homestead:</b> Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.

## SOUL MEN



The Blues Brothers have been legends since the early days of *Saturday Night Live*, and their movie is the rare cult movie that's wildly commercially successful. Now **Blues Brothers: The Next Generation** touches down at Tupelo (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$30 plus fees.

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**WE SELL PARTS!**



**Milford**  
**Pasta Loft:** The Young Americans, 8:30 p.m.  
**Riley's:** Down By Ten, 8 p.m.

**Nashua**  
**Casey Magee's:** Wooden Soul, 8 p.m.

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

**Newbury**  
**Mount Sunapee:** Josh Foster, 3 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
**Gas Light:** Krystian Beal, 9:30 p.m.

**Salem**  
**Luna Bistro:** Joey Canzano, 7 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
**Red's:** DNA, 4 p.m.

**Sunapee**  
**The Livery:** Slim Volume Band, 7 p.m.

**Brookline**  
**Alamo:** Bella Perrotta, 4 p.m.  
**Goffstown**  
**Village Trestle:** Bob & Amberly, 3:30 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**Smuttynose:** Dani Sven, 4:30 p.m.

**Hudson**  
**Lynn's 102:** Rebecca Turnel, 4 p.m.

**Laconia**  
**Fratello's:** Kyle Dumais, 6 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
**Stumble Inn:** Johny Friday Duo, 2 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Bonfire:** free line dancing, 7 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Alex Roy, 7 p.m.  
**Strange Brew:** One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

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

**Newbury**  
**Mount Sunapee:** Garrett Smith, 3 p.m.

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

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

**Monday, Feb. 19**  
**Dover**  
**Cara Irish Pub:** open mic, 8 p.m.

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

**Hampton**  
**L Street:** karakoi, 9 p.m.

**Hudson**  
**The Bar:** karaoke with Phil, 7 p.m.

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

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

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

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Dave Zangir, 5:30 p.m.

**Nashua**  
**Fody's:** karaoke night, 9:30 p.m.  
**Portsmouth**  
**The Goat:** Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Feb. 20**  
**Concord**  
**Tandy's:** open mic, 8 p.m.

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

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

**Merrimack**  
**Homestead:** Lewis Goodwin, 5:30 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.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21**  
**Concord**  
**Tandy's:** karaoke, 8 p.m.  
**Uno Pizzeria:** Karen Grenier, 6 p.m.

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

**Hampton**  
**L Street:** karaoke, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Paul Wolstencroft, 7 p.m.

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

**Manchester**  
**Fratello's:** Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.  
**Stark Brewing:** Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.  
**Strange Brew:** open mic w/ Will Bemiss, 8 p.m.

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

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

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

**Thursday, Feb. 22**  
**Bedford**  
**Copper Door:** Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

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

**Candia**  
**Town Cabin Pub:** Sam Vlasich, 6 p.m.

**Concord**  
**Lithermans:** Alex Cohen, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Epping**  
**Telly's:** Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.

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

**Goffstown**  
**Village Trestle:** Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
**Stumble Inn:** Rob & Jody, 7 p.m.

## STRAIGHT OUTTA DURHAM



A few years ago four undergraduates founded **The Rock Dwellers** in the dorms of the University of New Hampshire. Since then, this “four-piece rock star outfit of nuclear-level energy” has been making a name for themselves on the Seaport music scene. They stop by 3S Artspace (319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, 766-3330, 3sarts.org) on Friday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$12 to \$15, plus fees.

## SERIOUS COMEDY



They've become a viral hit on the strength of songs like “Vapin’ in Vegas” and “Just Give Me Cash.” They've played at the Netflix Is A Joke Festival and opened for comedians like David Cross and bands like Jukebox the Ghost. They're **Wolves of Glendale** and they're coming to the Press Room (77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, pressroomnh.com) on Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$18 to \$20 plus fees.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 32

changed. I went with Rosie O'Donnell, so it was like the Rosie O'Donnell show was still on daytime, *My Life on the D List* was still on TV, it was hilarious.... I also like that Paris didn't let us in the house, which is my favorite thing about when rich people have parties, they have police caution tape, like don't even think about it. I don't blame her; she's been through hell herself.”

She'll also riff on a certain pop singer but may go a bit gentler on her.

“We can't not talk about Britney!” she said. “I feel very maternal toward

her, I certainly went in hard on her in the '90s and 2000s, because at that time I was making fun of a young lady that was a multi-multi-multi-millionaire as a teenager and was behaving in ways that sometimes were unique, but no, I'm not making fun of her mental illness. But am I gonna talk about her Instagram? Yes, I am. Can I look away from it? No, I can't.”

The gloves are off for her former Hamptons neighbor Kanye West, now remarried and causing international incidents with his new wife. “Getting kicked out of Italy, I've never heard of that,” Griffin wondered. “I can see getting kicked out of an Italian restaurant

but getting kicked out of the entire country because you're walking around with a pillow and plastic heels? I've got to get to the bottom of it.”

Griffin also thinks Kanye is missing his former wife, Kim Kardashian. “A couple of days ago, his pants fell down, and you could see his butt crack. Doesn't he have a team of people to tell him, pull your pants up, get it together? That's what I feel Kim did. She would do a little bit of Cher in *Moonstruck* — ‘snap out of it!’ Because he was a little bit functional then; now he's just off the rails. I know he has a mental illness, but I don't care. I'm going right for the misogyny.”

Whatever awaits her as she embarks on her first big domestic tour since her world came crashing down, Kathy Griffin remains defiant. “I have cemented my place in history,” she said. “Actually, as I'm getting older, I'm getting a little proud of it. The fact that I'm still out there, going to work within the same 10-day period of E. Jean Carroll getting her \$83 million judgment, I'm starting to have a bit of optimism about this little divided country of ours.” 🍷

## COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

### Venues

**Amato Center for the Performing Arts**  
56 Mont Vernon, Milford, 672-1002, amatocenter.org

**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

**Cello's Farmhouse Italian**  
143 Raymond Road, Candia, 483-2000, cellosfarmhouseitalian.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Martha's Exchange Restaurant & Brewery**  
185 Main St., Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com

**McCue's Comedy Club at the Roundabout Diner**  
580 Portsmouth Traffic Circle, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com

**Murphy's Taproom**  
494 Elm St., Manchester, scampscomey.com/shows

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Saddle Up Saloon**  
92 Route 125, Kingston, 347-1313, saddleupsaloonnh.com

**Sawbelly Brewing**  
156 Epping Road, Exeter, 583-5080

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

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

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

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

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

**Weekly comedy nights**  
• **Wednesday** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, 9 p.m.  
• **Saturday** Murphy's Taproom, 8 p.m.

### Events

• **Wolves of Glendale** Press Room, Friday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.  
• **Philip Anthony** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 16,



Jim Colliton

8:30 p.m.  
• **The Calamari Sisters** Rex, Saturday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
• **R-Rated Hypnotist Frank Santos Jr.** Palace, Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Kathy Griffin** Music Hall, Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m.  
• **Ace Aceto** Chunky's Nashua, Saturday, Feb. 17, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Young & Strange** Colonial Theatre, Thursday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Jim Colliton/Kyle Crawford/Jay Martin** Tupelo, Friday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.  
• **Young & Strange: Delusionists** Nashua Center for the Arts, Friday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.  
• **Frank Santorelli** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Anne Marie Scheffler in MILF Life Crisis** Bank of NH Stage, Saturday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m.  
• **Amy Tee** Headliners, Saturday, Feb. 24, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Funny Women of a Certain Age** Flying Monkey, Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Jimmy Cash & Friends** Rex, Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Randy Rainbow** Music Hall, Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Wanda Sykes** Chubb Theatre, Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.  
• **Tom Segura** SNHU Arena, Friday, March 1, 8 p.m.  
• **Christine Hurley** Headliners, Saturday, March 2, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Peter Antoniou** Music Hall Lounge, Sunday, March 10, 7 p.m.  
• **Irish Comedy Tour** Nashua Center for the Arts, Sunday, March 10, 8 p.m.  
• **Juston McKinney** Chubb Theatre, Saturday, March 16, 8 p.m.  
• **Tupelo Night of Comedy** Tupelo, Saturday, March 16, 8 p.m.  
• **Bob Marley** Flying Monkey, Saturday, March 16, 8 p.m.  
• **Lenny Clarke** Chunky's Manchester, Thursday, March 21, 8:30 p.m.  
• **Lenny Clarke** Chunky's Manchester, Friday, March 22, 8:30 p.m.

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## NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

### Trivia

#### Events

- **Love Actually 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (707 Huse Road in Manchester; chunkys.com).
- **The Wizard of Oz 21+ trivia night** Thursday, Feb. 22, 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.
- **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



Love Actually

- com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.
- **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua; fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
- **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday** trivia at Biergarten Anheuser-Busch (221 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Sunday** trivia at Mountain

- Base Brewery (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 315-8382) at 4 p.m.
- **Monday** Pub Quiz at Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Sea Dog Brewing (5 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgarage-

bar.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 Revolu-

- tion 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, millyard-brewery.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St.; Manchester, 232-3751, snhhg.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) at 8 p.m.

### Concerts

#### Venues

- Alpine Grove**  
19 S. Depot Road, Hollis, alpine-grove.com
- Angel City**  
179 Elm St. in Manchester, 931-3654, angelcitymusic hall.com
- Averill House Vineyard**  
21 Averill Road, Brookline, 371-2296, averillhousevineyard.com
- Bank of NH Stage in Concord**  
16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, banknhstage.com
- Capitol Center for the Arts**  
Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
- Cisco Brewers**  
35 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth, ciscobrewersportsmouth.com
- Colonial Theatre**  
609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, coloniallaconia.com
- Concord City Auditorium**  
2 Prince St., Concord, theaudi.org
- Dana Center**  
Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets.anselm.edu
- The Flying Goose**  
40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com
- The Flying Monkey**  
39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
- Franklin Opera House**  
316 Central St., Franklin, 934-

1901, franklinoperahouse.org

#### Fulchino Vineyard

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

#### Jewel Music Venue

61 Canal St., Manchester, 819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.com

#### Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

135 Congress St., Portsmouth, 888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com

#### LaBelle Winery

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

#### LaBelle Winery Derry

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

#### Lakeport Opera House

781 Union Ave., Laconia, 519-7506, lakeportopera.com

#### The Majestic Theatre

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

#### The Music Hall

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

#### The Music Hall Lounge

131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic hall.org

#### Nashua Center for the Arts

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

#### The Orchard Chapel

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

#### Palace Theatre

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

#### Park Theatre

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

#### Pasta Loft

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

#### Press Room

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

#### Rex Theatre

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

#### Rochester Opera House

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

#### The Spotlight Room

96 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

#### SNHU Arena

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

#### Stone Church

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

#### The Strand

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

#### 3S Artspace

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

#### Tupelo Music Hall

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

#### The Word Barn

66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

#### Shows

- **The Chamber Music of Robert Honstein** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Croce Plays Croce** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **Katie Henry Band** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **New England Winter Blues Festival** Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Grateful Dead night featuring Not Fade Away Band & Friends** Thursday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m., Angel City
- **Shades of Buble** (Michael Buble tribute) Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Palace
- **Dueling Pianos** Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Mandy Barnett Sings Patsy Cline** Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Valentine's Dueling Pianos** Friday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Trapt, Hollow Virtue, Citizen Kane** Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Angel City
- **The Rock Dwellers** Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Juanito Pascual Trio** Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Glenn Hughes** Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Truffle** Saturday, Feb. 17, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Ari Hest** Saturday, Feb. 17, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
- **Paul Hodes and the Blue Buddha Band** Saturday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Chief Adujah** Saturday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Blues Brothers: The Next**

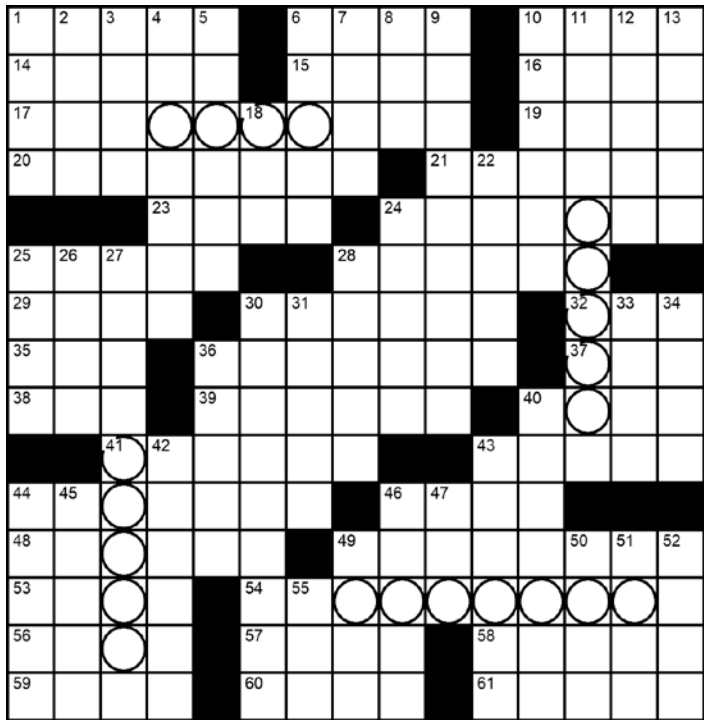


Not Fade Away

- Generation** Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Cowboy Junkies** Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m., Colonial Laconia
- **Griffin House** Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Paul Nelson Band** Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- **Banana Gun** Saturday, Feb. 17, at 9 p.m., Angel City
- **Oshima Brothers** Sunday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Press Room
- **Matt Pond PA/Alexa Rose** Sunday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Gulf Coast Records Revue** Sunday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Cat Power** Sunday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
- **The Blue Note Quintet** Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
- **The Wildmans** Wednesday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue** Thursday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall
- **No Static** (Steely Dan tribute) Thursday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m., and Friday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Robert Cray Band** Thursday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

- **Grateful Dead night featuring Not Fade Away Band & Friends** Thursday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m., Angel City
- **Steve Rondo** Friday, Feb. 23, 4 p.m., Cisco Brewers
- **Jessie's Girl** (80s tribute) Friday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Palace
- **Dead Set** (Grateful Dead tribute) Friday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Vance Gilbert** Friday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Daisy Cutter 6** Friday, Feb. 23, at 9 p.m., Angel City
- **ORBIT** Friday, Feb. 23, 9 p.m., Strand
- **Who's Bad** (Michael Jackson tribute) Saturday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Palace
- **Joe Russo Selcouth Quartet** Saturday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **The Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Saturday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Damn the Torpedoes** (Tom Petty tribute) Saturday, Feb. 24, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Ward Hayden** Sunday, Feb. 25, noon, Cisco Brewers
- **Irish Tenors** Sunday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **Duke Robillard Quartet** Sunday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Misty Blues Band** Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Actor/Observer** Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m., Press Room
- **Ari Heist** Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose
- **The Four Phantoms** Thursday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer** Friday, March 1, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Veronica Swift** Friday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

# “Strong Suits” – dealing with another puzzle.



**Across**

- 1. As of yet
- 6. Judge's seat, in law
- 10. "Ray Donovan" actor Schreiber
- 14. Jumper cable terminal
- 15. As well
- 16. Give the creepy eye to
- 17. Remove all the dirt and grime from
- 19. Server operating system
- 20. Release
- 21. Three-part vacuum tube in old TVs
- 23. "\_\_\_ Little Tenderness"
- 24. Becomes enraged
- 25. Double sextet
- 28. Borrower
- 29. 2001 high-tech debut
- 30. Apt answer for this clue
- 32. It had a hub at JFK
- 35. Keanu's "Matrix" role
- 36. What you may need to do to understand the four sets of circled letters
- 37. Talking computer in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
- 38. Slippery tree
- 39. Inquisition target
- 40. Clock feature
- 41. Kicks out
- 43. Injection also used to treat migraines

- 44. Gangsters' headwear, in old movies
- 46. Tiger sound
- 48. Cider fodder
- 49. England-Scandinavia separator
- 53. Golden State sch.
- 54. They're unbiased and accepting, and not short-sighted

- 56. Wine bouquet
- 57. Expert pilots
- 58. Rice-\_\_\_ ("The San Francisco Treat")
- 59. Lawyer, for short
- 60. Put a stop to
- 61. "The Walking Dead" villain

**Down**

- 1. Rude response
- 2. "Falling Slowly" musical
- 3. Ticonderoga, e.g.
- 4. Took on grown-up errands, so to speak
- 5. Like a phoenix
- 6. Lightweight modeling wood
- 7. Out of the breeze, to a sailor
- 8. Hush-hush govt. group
- 9. In a satisfied way
- 10. Thelma's cohort, in film
- 11. "Disregard what you just saw ..."
- 12. Avoid some syllables
- 13. Bewildered
- 18. Slyly shy
- 22. Change color again
- 24. Peasants of yore
- 25. Feast
- 26. European car manufacturer
- 27. Went by quickly
- 28. "One of \_\_\_ great mysteries ..."
- 30. Locale in a Clash title
- 31. "Everybody \_\_\_" (REM song)
- 33. Home of Baylor University
- 34. James Patterson detective Cross
- 36. Hobbits' homeland

- 40. Available to rent
- 42. Tennis shot
- 43. Role for Keaton and Kilmer
- 44. Animals, collectively
- 45. Disney World acronym
- 46. "I Only \_\_\_ the Ones I Love" (Jeffrey Ross book)
- 47. Airport code for O'Hare
- 49. "Great British Bake-Off" co-host

- Fielding
- 50. Make out in Manchester
- 51. \_\_\_ Mode of "The Incredibles"
- 52. "O \_\_\_ Oscar"
- 55. "His Master's Voice" company

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- 19. Server operating system
- 20. Release
- 21. Three-part vacuum tube in old TVs
- 23. "\_\_\_ Little Tenderness"
- 24. Becomes enraged
- 25. Double sextet
- 28. Borrower
- 29. 2001 high-tech debut
- 30. Apt answer for this clue
- 32. It had a hub at JFK
- 35. Keanu's "Matrix" role
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- 38. Slippery tree
- 39. Inquisition target
- 40. Clock feature
- 41. Kicks out
- 43. Injection also used to treat migraines

## WORD★Roundup™

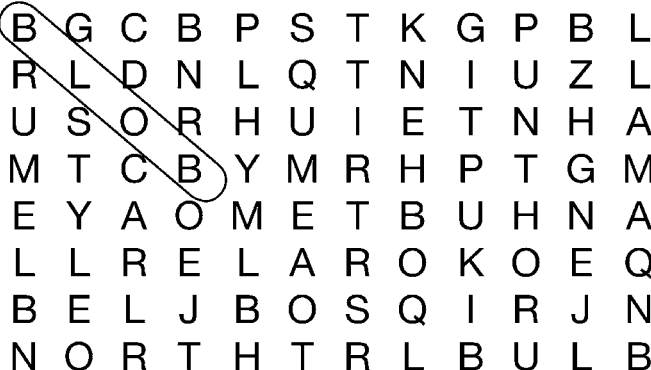
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

- Five words starting and ending with B  □□□□
- Four mammals starting with L  □□□□
- Three five-letter words that can follow "hair"  □□□
- \_\_\_ Carolina  □□
- "It" author (first/last name)  □□

Last Week's Answers: : DECEMBER OCTOBER MARCH APRIL JUNE / CHIPMUNK HEDGEHOG AARDVARK / KING KONG / MOTHER NEPHEW / CHILE PERU

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# KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

1	1-		2÷
24X	3-	4	
		4+	
	2÷		3

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**CHALLENGING**

2÷	3-	11+		2	90X
		2-			
11+	3	2÷		10+	
	11+	2÷	6X		
2-			7+		5
	3÷		5	3-	

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**RULES**

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

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

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**

1	12X	3	5+
1	4	3	2
2÷	2	1	4
10+	3	2	1
4	3	2	1

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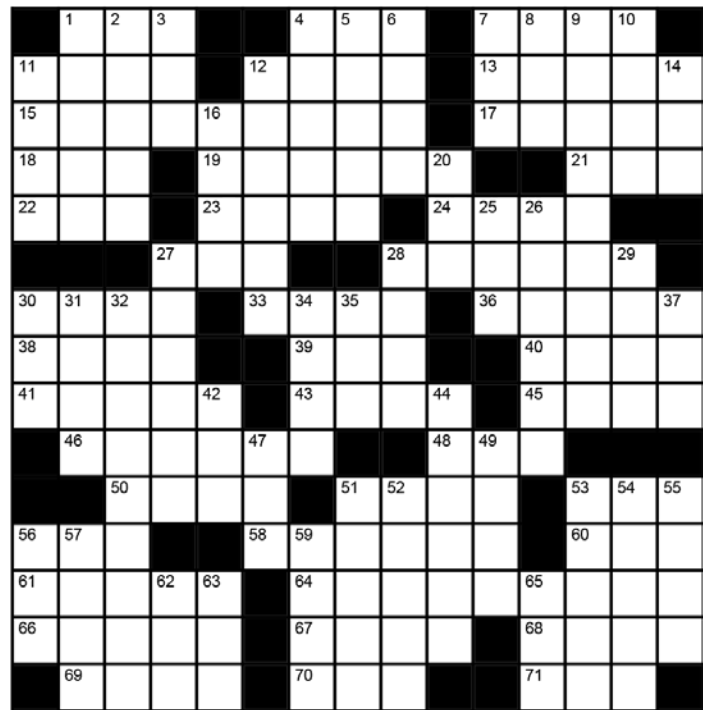
# Take a puzzle off Fanny

**Across**

- 1. Jewel song for what you say at the altar
- 4. The Band ‘ \_\_\_ Should Fail’
- 7. The Band ‘Ain’t That \_\_\_ Of Love’
- 11. Adam Sandler ‘ \_\_\_ And Judy’s Kid’
- 12. Bruce Springsteen ‘ \_\_\_ Raised A Cain’
- 13. How Santana is addressed at a hotel, perhaps
- 15. Robert Plant album ‘Fate \_\_\_’
- 17. Lemonheads “Et cetera, ad infinitum, ad \_\_\_”
- 18. ‘20 Violent Soho album ‘Everything Is \_\_\_’ (hyph)
- 19. C is the relative major of this
- 21. Canadians The Tragically \_\_\_
- 22. Experienced player
- 23. Cars ‘Heartbeat \_\_\_’
- 24. Willie Nelson ‘Let \_\_\_ Me’
- 27. ‘Calgary’ \_\_\_ Iver
- 28. Savage Garden ‘ \_\_\_ Loved You’
- 30. Phish’s Billy Preston cover ‘Will \_\_\_ Round In Circles’
- 33. Bee \_\_\_
- 36. Thompson Square’s ‘ \_\_\_ Am’ is for a sports car, perhaps
- 38. Roger Hodgson ‘Open The \_\_\_’
- 39. Sam Cooke was on this Will Smith boxing flick

**Down**

- 40. Jazz’s Fitzgerald
- 41. Session musician task
- 43. Supremes singer Diana Parsons
- 45. ‘Atom Heart Mother’ engineer
- 46. ‘Go!’ Tones \_\_\_
- 48. Aimee Mann band \_\_\_ Tuesday
- 50. Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers ‘ \_\_\_ Squad’
- 51. Sing/songer Bill Callahan alias
- 53. Letters before an alias
- 56. Fall behind in tour schedule
- 58. ‘03 Ataris album ‘ \_\_\_ , Astoria’
- 60. Restroom facility, to British band
- 61. ‘Calm Like \_\_\_’ Rage Against The Machine (1,4)
- 64. ‘15 Lana Del Rey song/album for newlywed holiday
- 66. ‘True To Myself’ R&B singer Eric
- 67. Run-DMC “ \_\_\_ why ya buggin’?”
- 68. Some get hooked on it
- 69. Ed Sheeran will build a ‘House’ w/one
- 70. Iconic producer Brian
- 71. One English Beat genre
- 27. Bon Jovi hit ‘ \_\_\_ Be My Baby’
- 28. ‘Wavering Radiant’ LA sludge metalers
- 29. LANY went to major SoCal city to be a ‘Cowboy \_\_\_’
- 30. Need these cards to get in and drink
- 31. “As soon as my heart stops breaking” band
- 32. Bob Dylan ‘Going \_\_\_’
- 34. Bluesman Ronnie
- 35. Classic 70s band that used woodwinds (abbr)
- 37. Beach Boys ‘ \_\_\_ Miguel’
- 42. Rick Springfield album about Lao Tzu principle, perhaps
- 44. Meatloaf duo partner in ‘71
- 47. Music industry contacts
- 49. Pop of The Stooges
- 51. ‘Smeared’ Canadian rockers
- 52. ‘It’s A Breeze’ crooner Matt
- 53. ‘00 Limp Bizkit hit ‘Take \_\_\_ Around’
- 54. English ‘Lies Sell Stories’ band
- 55. Blue Ribbon or this kind of jam
- 56. ‘Time Ago’ band Black \_\_\_
- 57. Half of ‘Addicted’ band, w/ Saving
- 59. Aretha Franklin ‘ \_\_\_ , Oh My’
- 62. Sister band \_\_\_ & Dia
- 63. ‘Taking Care Of Business’ band
- 65. ‘Tender Love’ Force \_\_\_



**R&R answer from pg 44 of 2/8**



**Jonesin’ answer from pg 43 of 2/8**



**NITE SUDOKU**

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

**King Classic Sudoku Puzzle A**

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

Difficulty: ★★

**King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B**

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

Difficulty: ★★★

**King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C**

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

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

**SIGNS OF LIFE**

All quotes are from *The Getaway (Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book 12)*, by Jeff Kinney, born Feb. 19, 1971.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** *It's been a few days since we made it back home, and Mom's already working on the photo album. And from the pictures, you'd think we had a great time. Don't believe everything you see on Instagram.*

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** *I figured Manny and Rodrick would help me talk some sense into Mom and Dad, and we'd put a stop to this idea. But those guys weren't any help at ALL. If you want something done right....*

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** *After the kids cleared out of the pool, I figured it was a good time to get in the water and go for a relaxing swim. Ahhhh.*

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** *It wasn't just the POOL that was crowded, though. There were people EVERYWHERE. I was really looking forward to relaxing in the hot tub until I saw it. Look before you leap.*

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** *Unfortunately, I didn't notice that there was a giant slush puddle on my side of the car until it was too late. Proper footwear saves the day.*

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** *I guess nobody told these people you're not supposed to wear winter clothes in ninety-degree weather. And vice versa.*

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** *The only problem with the hand dryer in the airport bathroom was that it was a little TOO powerful. My sock started SMOKING, and then it went FLYING. I decided I'd just get a new pair of socks ... because there was no way I was gonna wear something I had to fish out of a URINAL. Gotta draw the line somewhere.*

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)**

*The one activity I really had my heart set on was swimming with dolphins. ... But the guy at the Activities Hut said that swimming with dolphins was really popular and it was totally booked. The dolphins are busy.*

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** *I would've tried to convince Dad to wait a little longer, but my sock was starting to turn to ice, and I didn't wanna get frostbite. Weigh your options.*

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** *But it turns out that a golf cart makes a lousy getaway car, especially if you're climbing a HILL. Walking might be faster.*

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** *The Director of Fun ran to the nearest lifeguard, who started blowing her whistle. Then all the other lifeguards started blowing THEIRS. And you have never seen so many people get out of a pool so FAST. When the Director of Fun talks, people listen.*

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** *That's when I realized I was in the DOLPHIN enclosure. I was so happy that I forgot all about how I got there. There you are. 🐙*

**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 jazz saxophonist David (7)      | _____     |
| 2 officially approving (11)       | _____     |
| 3 eagerly hopeful (8)             | _____     |
| 4 summer footwear (7)             | _____     |
| 5 classic decaf brand (5)         | _____     |
| 6 ancient language (8)            | _____     |
| 7 Amy of "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" (8) | _____     |

CTIO	IT	NI	BORN	SA
NDA	NG	SAN	LS	KR
UINE	NS	NG	SAN	SA
SANT	SA	IAGO	SAN	KA

Last Week's Answers: 1. GRISHAM 2. STEEL 3. FOLLETT  
4. MACOMBER 5. BALDACCI 6. COELHO 7. PATTERSON

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**Sudoku Answers from pg 44 of 2/8**

**Puzzle A**

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

Difficulty: ★ 1/25

**Puzzle B**

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 1/25

**Puzzle C**

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 1/27



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**MOLLY HATCHET**  
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**News You Can Use**

Researchers at Western Sydney University have revealed results of a study showing that frequent nose-pickers may have a higher probability of developing Alzheimer’s disease. WION-TV reported on Feb. 7 that the habit introduces germs into the nasal cavity that trigger the brain to produce beta-amyloid as a defense. An abundance of beta-amyloid is believed to be the leading cause of Alzheimer’s. “It is essential to note that the temporary relief obtained from nose-picking is not a substitute for proper nasal hygiene,” the report said — “proper nasal hygiene” being “regular cleaning and maintenance of the nasal passages through gentle methods such as saline nasal rinses or blowing the nose.” *WION, Feb. 7*

**Sweet Revenge**

Paul Gibbons, 63, of Kingsclere, England, paid about \$32,000 to have his kitchen remodeled a year ago, the *Basingstoke Gazette* reported. Wickes, the company he chose to do the work, bungled it, according to Gibbons: “The finish throughout is so poor, and half the kitchen doesn’t fit as it should. I agreed to the contract and what I was told would be two weeks of work, and ... I am left with

a kitchen which I can’t even use as you should.” As a result, Gibbons demanded a refund, but when he couldn’t get that, he parked a decommissioned 1963 gun tank that he had borrowed from a friend outside the store. Wickes called that “unacceptable and aggressive behavior” and threatened to have the tank removed. But Gibbons isn’t budging: “I want my money back and want them to take that kitchen out of my house so I can get a new one.” *Basingstoke Gazette, Dec. 27*

**Consumer Report**

After 2 1/2 years, Jackie Nguyen of Seattle “just didn’t like” her couch anymore, *USA Today* reported on Feb. 1. After checking with Costco’s return policy, Nguyen returned the couch to the store for a full refund. “We just didn’t like the color anymore,” she admitted on a TikTok video. Nguyen didn’t even have a receipt — but she did have a good memory and could tell the clerk the date she bought the sofa. The clerk looked it up and refunded \$900 to her card. Costco told Nguyen that returned items are donated, resold, returned to the manufacturer for a credit or refurbished.

**Field Report**

On Jan. 20, as an Amish couple from Shipshewana, Indiana, shopped at a Walmart in Sturgis, Michigan, Lona Latoski, 31, allegedly climbed inside their buggy and directed their horse away from the parking lot, *MLive.com* reported. A witness saw the woman drive off and thought it was odd that she wasn’t Amish, but didn’t report the theft. When the couple came out and realized their ride was gone, a truck driver offered them shelter from the cold and alerted police, who tracked down the buggy at an Admiral gas station, where it was parked. Latoski was located in the motel next door, hiding under a pile of clothing in a shower. She admitted taking the horse and buggy and said she had “instant regret ... but she was cold and needed to get home,” the officer said. “I asked her if she had ever had any training with equestrians,” he said. “She did not know what ‘equestrian’ meant.” (Apparently, nor did the officer.) Latoski was charged with larceny of livestock and general larceny.

reported. Crews who investigated found it was a roguish raccoon who made contact with equipment at the city’s Hydro One electric station. (The raccoon did not survive, a spokesperson said.) About 7,000 were affected for about three hours, Hydro One reported. While raccoon-caused outages are not unheard of, squirrels are the more common culprits. *Reuters, Feb. 2*

**The Entrepreneurial Spirit**

When Carole Germain, 46, of Brest, France, adopted a pig in 2020, she didn’t foresee that Couscous would lead her to a new business venture: pig pedicurist. *Yahoo! News* reported that Germain, who runs a bar in Brest, has started traveling all over France to trim the tusks and hooves of porcine pets. In fact, she’s selling the bar to devote herself full-time to the practice. “It’s nuts. I thought I was the only person who had one hogging the couch. But there are thousands,” she said. On one trip around the south of France, she treated 43 pigs. *Yahoo!News, Feb. 8*

**Animal Antics**

On Feb. 1, the lights went out in central Toronto, darkening traffic signals and trapping people in elevators, *Reuters*

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

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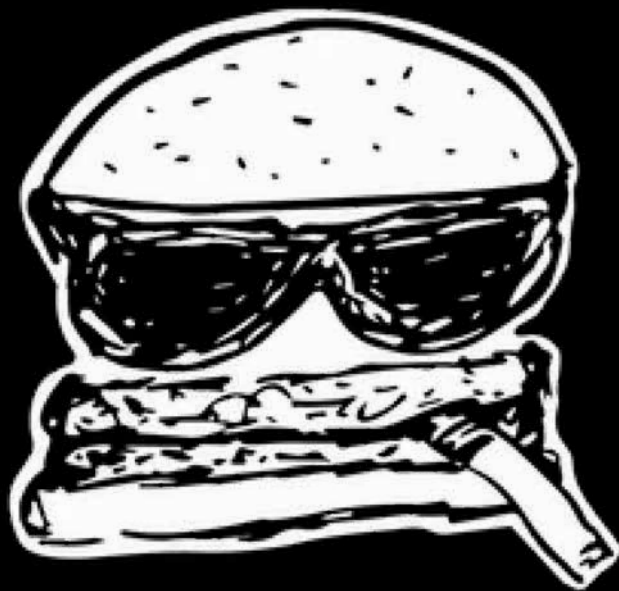
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