



the Hippo

DECEMBER 19 - 25, 2024

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ON THE COVER

10 Time for snacks! Whether you're gathering a crowd for a screening of *Elf* or catching up on *Yellowstone* in a quiet moment, you need snacks. And there is no better snack for kicking back than popcorn — a sometimes salty, sometimes sweet highly snackable treat. In this week's issue, John Fladd talks to popcorn experts and does some recipe tinkering to create some corn delights.



ALSO ON THE COVER And what goes better with popcorn than movies? Amy Diaz offers a look at new holiday films for kids, families, grown-ups and people who argue that *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie (page 28). John also checks out some seasonal brews from area beer makers (page 22). Or perhaps you want to enjoy the season's lights? In this week's Kiddie Pool (page 20) we list some of the spots to find holiday lights, and Michael Witthaus takes a closer look at LaBelle Lights on page 32.

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Santa's Christmas

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December 21 & 22 and Christmas Eve

Encore of the Lights

Just because Christmas is over doesn't mean life goes back to normal right away! Here at the farm we're always getting phone calls from families looking for ways to keep the kids and visiting relatives busy during the holiday break week! So we came up with Encore of the Lights! Climb aboard our horse drawn ride and travel 30 minutes through our Christmas light displays and see the Reindeer at the North Pole.

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According to a press release, The New Hampshire Lottery and the National Council on Problem Gambling collaborated for a Gift Responsibly Campaign to remind the public that holiday-themed scratch tickets and other lottery games are not appropriate for children under the age of 18.

In a statement, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Lottery Charlie McIntyre said, “we want to share a critical reminder for gift givers that all lottery games, including holiday-themed games, are only for those 18 years of age and older. While lottery games and scratch tickets are great gifts, they should not be gifted to minors. There are many risks to gifting underage people lottery tickets and it is critically important the New Hampshire Lottery and the National Council on Problem Gambling work together to keep lottery games in the appropriate hands.”

According to the same release, the New Hampshire Lottery restricts underage lottery play by including a printed reminder on each product showing all players must be 18 to play, and New Hampshire Lottery retailers are trained to verify lottery game customers’ ages with a photo ID prior to finalizing a sale.

Funding for families

According to a press release, Concord Hospital Health System (CHHS) has received more than \$353,000 in grants and donations to enhance maternity, prenatal and postnatal ob/gyn patient care across central New Hampshire,

and these gifts contribute to a \$2.8 million campaign supporting major renovations at The Family Place at Concord Hospital, innovative pilot programs and critical resources for families.

In a statement, Melissa Devine, the director of women and children’s value stream at The Family Place at Concord Hospital, said that “a unique aspect of The Family Place at Concord Hospital is patients remain in the same room through every stage of labor, delivery, and recovery. The upgrades will enhance that unique experience, ensuring families thrive in a safe and inviting environment during their stay.”

Some specifics of the funding include The Family Place Renovations: \$250,000 from an anonymous donor, \$40,000 from The Abbie F. Mosely Charitable Trust, Citizens Bank, N.A., Trustee, \$17,445 from The Jessie Gould Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and \$2,500 from Bruce Dyke, according to the release.

In a statement, Mario Rosario, practice manager, said, “we established a Maternity Comfort Closet at Concord Hospital Obstetrics and Gynecology in Laconia to support parents. It provides newborn clothing and other essentials to help families prepare for their baby’s arrival and address the need for basic necessities in a meaningful way.”

Lorax tax

According to a press release, the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (NHDRA) is increasing education

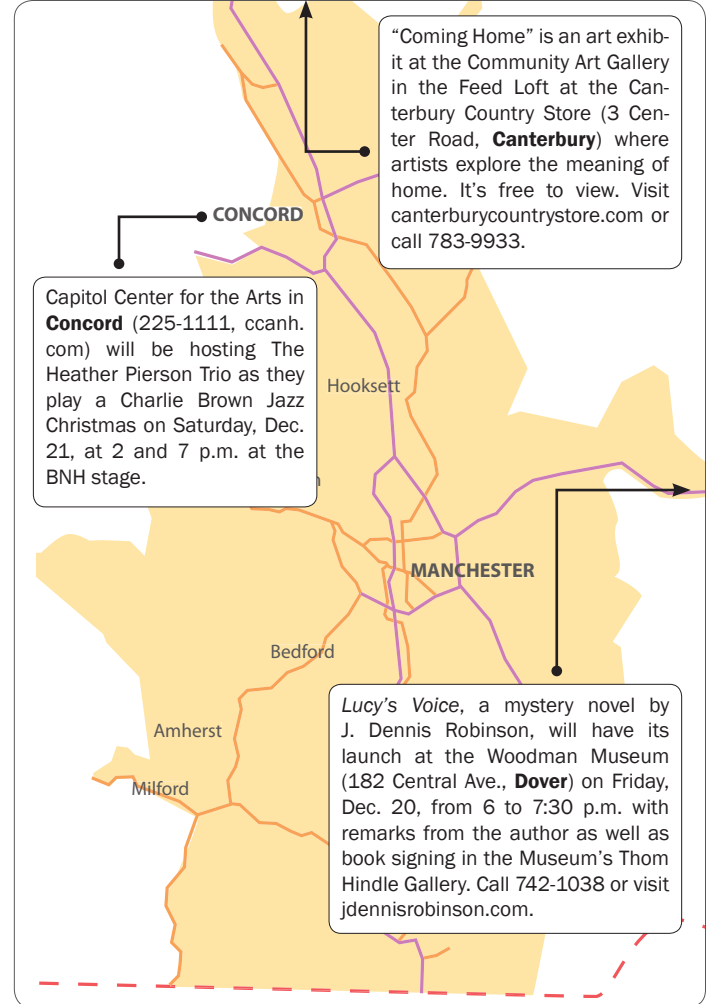
efforts for landowners, municipalities and loggers to help them understand and follow New Hampshire’s laws and regulations regarding logging and timber harvesting.

The NHDRA recently developed and introduced a guide on New Hampshire’s Timber Tax, which is accessible on the NHDRA website and provides an overview of the tax and how it is assessed, while also providing links and directions to forms, resources and additional information, according to the release.

New Hampshire’s forest products industry generates more than \$1.6 billion annually in direct economic impact and sustains more than 7,000 jobs according to the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension’s most recent Forest Products Industries’ Economic Contribution report, and with more than 80 percent of the Granite State covered by trees, the total economic output from our forests from direct, indirect and induced economic impact and from forest-based recreation exceeds \$2.5 billion, according to the press release.

Logging occurs year-round but winter is traditionally when loggers are most active, and forestry is New Hampshire’s oldest land-based industry, dating back to the 1600s.

New Hampshire legislators enacted a Timber Tax in 1949 “for the purpose of encouraging conservation of the forest resources of the state” and each municipality is responsible for assessing the Timber Tax on the landowner of the property from which the lumber is



harvested, according to the release.

The Timber Tax is set at 10 percent of the “stumpage value”—the value of wood, measured per thousand board feet of saw logs or tons of pulpwood — at the time of cutting, according to the same release.

One penalty known as “doomage” provides that the municipality may assess two times what the tax would have been if the report of wood cut had been filed accurately and on time, according to the release.

DRA has several resources for landowners, municipalities and

loggers on its website, revenue.nh.gov/taxes-glance/timber-tax, such as details on how the Timber Tax is assessed, necessary forms, a series of Frequently Asked Questions, and links to partner organizations, including the New Hampshire Timber Owners Association and the New Hampshire Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, according to the release.

Those interested can also call 230-5950 or email timber@dra.nh.gov for assistance.

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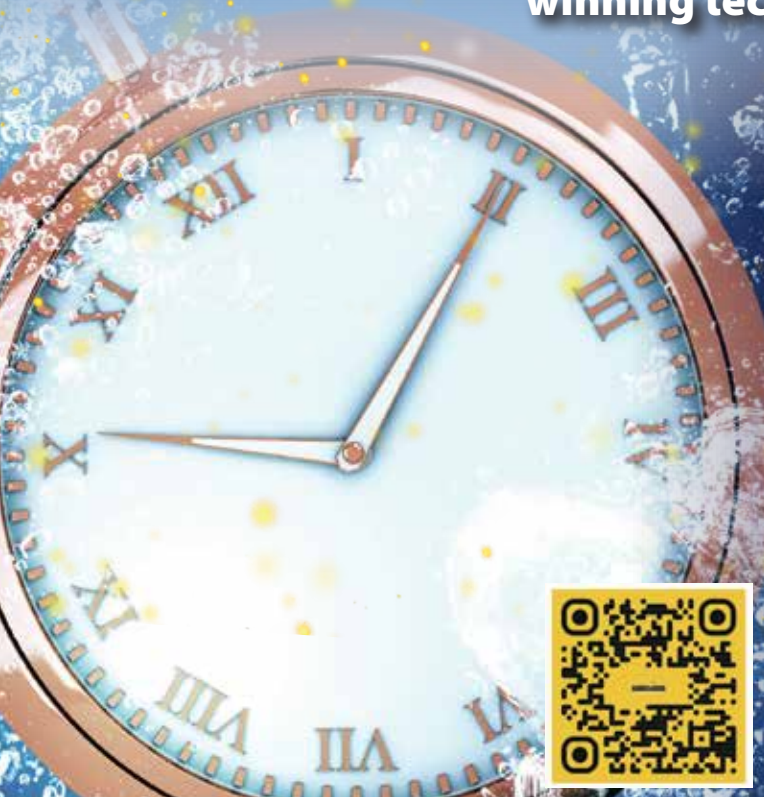
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See SEE

SEE Science Center offers all ages science exploration

Shana Hawrylchak is the Executive Director of SEE Science Center. She spoke to the Hippo about all the exciting happenings at the Center. SEE's mission is "to engage our community in the joyful, active exploration of science and innovation." Along with her leadership at SEE, according to a press release, Shana is an active volunteer serving in leadership roles with many Manchester organizations, including Manchester Connects and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and she instituted and chairs Hands-on Museums of New Hampshire.

Q: *What is the SEE Science Center and what sorts of family activities are there?*

We're a hands-on science museum and we're really focused on kids 2 to 14 and their families. Kids are natural scientists, so they will start experimenting with anything and everything, and we like to really cultivate those innate abilities. At SEE we really are designed so that people can explore on their own and find what they love and really play with that. ... We have over 90 hands-on exhibits here at SEE, and ... we also do demonstrations about three times a day, so you'll get to interact with the presenters. Coming up with the vacation weeks we're going to have volunteers coming in to help, so there'll be science activities that folks can do on the floors as well.



Courtesy photo.

What is the Science Cafe movement?

It's really this movement of science museums across the country working to try to bring science to people. We also use a lot of jargon in science, which can make it pretty impossible for folks to really see what's going on. A lot of concepts they might be able to completely understand if you remove some of that jargon. I think if we don't engage with people in science, people don't understand what's happening, they're not going to support it, and they're also going to be a little dubious about what the science is telling us. It's really important that everybody is sort of involved in those discussions and can ask questions with scientists to really improve their own understanding but also identify areas that they might want to explore themselves.

Would you like to talk about the Science on Tap program?

We're in our 11th season, so it's a really great program. It's part of the Science Cafe movement across the United States, where adults get the chance to actually talk informally about science. We do it over at Stark Brewing Co., so you can go get yourself a beverage, a nice meal, and then interact with scientists. Each scientist will get like five minutes to talk about their area of science, and then it's all about the questions that people are asking them. It's an opportunity to really, that thing you're curious about, really dive into some of the details on it and make sure that, 'oh, I actually understand what's happening,' and get to talk to somebody. ... it's a chance for people to actually interact with someone doing the science.

You were recently awarded the Emerging Leader Impact Award from the New Hampshire Center of Nonprofits. Would you want to talk a little bit about that?

It was awesome. It's very nice to be able to win an award and get recognized, and I would say when somebody leading an institution gets an award it means that the people working at the institution did a good job. I wouldn't be getting recognized if my team wasn't doing a great job at what they do. So I think we've had the opportunity at the Science Center to really work with a lot of organizations and the team here at SEE has been really open to trying new things. It's just an exciting time to be at the Science Center because of partnerships, a great crew here, and everybody is really working toward a common goal of just getting kids interested and excited about science.

What exciting exhibits do you think will be coming up in 2025?

So we have a lot of work we are doing for something that is opening in 2026. I can't give too many details about it, but you'll start seeing some materials coming out in 2025 as we're working to do some major upgrades to the Lego Millyard Proj-

The SEE Science Center

Where: 200 Bedford St., Manchester

Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last admission 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m with last admission at 4 p.m.

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Bye-bye to Belichick



The Big Story – Coach B Heads to Chapel Hill: Well, I was wrong — **Bill Belichick** was serious about coaching in college. And it was such big news here that it blew the Red Sox trade

for the top-of-the-rotation pitcher (**Garrett Crochet**) they desperately needed off the front page.

BB moves to college as the leader in Super Bowls won with six. The move likely finishes his quest to pass **Don Shula** as the NFL's winningest coach in history. But it accomplishes two important things. (1) It ensures he will coach in 2025. (2) It gives him complete control to run the program and pick his own groceries as he did for 20 years here. Not exactly the ending to the legendary career I hoped for, but it apparently is what he wanted.

Sports 101: Name the seven players who have won the Cy Young Award in both leagues.

News Item – Sox Get Top-of-the-Rotation Starter: After losing out on free agent lefty **Max Fried** when he signed with the Yankees for giant money, the Sox pulled the trigger on the long-rumored deal for White Sox lefty **Garrett Crochet**. To do it they (sorta) went the **Brad Stevens** route of proven production over future promise by sending four minor-leaguers west, including highly touted catcher **Kyle Teel**.

I say *sorta* because Crochet comes with red flags. Only deranged stat geeks can proclaim a guy who was six games under .500 (6-12) and never pitched more than four innings in any start after July 1 “among the AL's best pitchers last year” as Boston Globe beat writer **Julian McWilliams** did Sunday. But at 25 the stuff was good enough to strike out 208 in a career-best 146 innings. So they rolled the dice on that and the much cheaper annual price tag over the red flags.

News Item – Alumni News Yikes Department: First there was one-time walking Patriots disaster **Jonnu Smith** killing them with Miami. Today it's last year's couldn't make a big kick if his life depended on it **Chad Ryland**. He was three for three on FG tries for Phoenix in Sunday's dismal 30-16 loss. He also has three-game winning walk-off FG's to his credit already.

The Numbers

16 – million-dollar increase to North Carolina's NIL recruiting money from last year's \$4 million to the \$20 million it'll be with Belichick as HC of UNC.

1 – billion with a B that the Dodgers now owe in deferred payments to players after

signing **Blake Snell**.

... Of the Week Awards

Thumbs Up – Nico Collins: “It was definitely worth it 'cause it was caught by a kid” – Texan wide receiver in response to being fined \$5,000 by the NFL for throwing a ball underhand to that kid after he caught it for a TD.

In Case You Missed It – Teddy Bridgewater: The one-time first-round NFL pick's Miami Northwestern won the Class 3A championship in his first year as a high school coach with an epic playoff round run where they outscored their five opponents 262-12.

Random Thoughts:

A Little History – Team Support: Before the geeks whine that Crochet got no support from the horrible White Sox: **Steve Carlton** won 27 games for the Phillies when they won 59 in 1972.

Sports 101 Answer: The seven NL and AL Cy Young winners are **Gaylord Perry, Pedro Martinez, Randy Johnson, Roger Clemens, Roy Halladay, Max Scherzer** and **Blake Snell**.

Final Thought – Should Jerod Mayo Return? The real issue for a change is not improvement, it's he the right fit for the circumstances? And since the Pats' biggest priority is maximizing the development of their prime asset, **Drake Maye**, the answer is no.

We've learned two things in recent years about the Coach-QB relationship: (1) the right QB is more important than the coach, no matter who he is; (2) **Matt Patricia** and **Mac Jones** clearly showed that the wrong coach overseeing a young QB can kill his development. How is Mayo's background any different from Patricia's? Answer: in this crucial area, not much.

Instead they need an imaginative offensive mind guiding Maye. Like Detroit OC **Ben Johnson**, who leads the NFL's highest-scoring club and, outside of KC, its most creative attack. He also helped **Jared Goff** evolve into an MVP-caliber player after the 2016 first overall pick floundered in L.A. before being dumped for **Matthew Stafford**. And look what draft bust turned MVP candidate **Sam Darnold** has done under ex-Patriot QB **Kevin O'Connell** in Minnesota.

If Mayo were taking over the defense-dominant 1985 Bears I'd probably stick with him. But that's not what the Pats are. It's an offensive league now and Maye is key to their revival.

So **Bob Kraft**, admit your mistake and then go get someone like Johnson, O'Connell or a young **Andy Reid**. Because *that's* what's needed going forward. *Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.*

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Green light in the sky

As reported by WMUR in a Dec. 10 online article, a comet will be visible in night skies in January, after an absence of 50,000 years. Discovered two years ago, the comet, whimsically named C/2022E3 (ZTF), “will make its closest approach to the sun on Jan. 12, according to NASA,” the story reported. This loop around the sun represents the near edge of an orbit that normally takes the comet through the extreme far edges of the solar system. “The icy celestial object,” WMUR reported, “which has steadily brightened as it approaches the sun, will subsequently make its closest pass of Earth between Feb. 1 and Feb. 2, around 26 million miles away, according to EarthSky — as the comet nears Earth, observers will be able to spot it near the bright star Polaris, also called the North Star, and it should be visible earlier in the evening.”

QOL score: +1

Comment: *While keen-eyed observers might be able to see the comet unaided at the end of January, most sky-watchers will need the help of binoculars or a telescope.*

A rude shock for Rochester dogs

According to a Dec. 11 online story by WMUR, Rochester City officials are investigating a number of complaints from pet owners that their dogs have been shocked while peeing against city light poles. WMUR quoted dog owner William McKay: “I walked him over to a pole, he lifted his leg up, and then he just screamed real loud, jumped up in the air and ran away.” According to the report, this has been traumatic for pet owners as well. “My dog started walking,” the story quoted Rochester resident Ryan Naples, “and he lifted his leg to pee, and all of a sudden, it was the most excruciating noise I’ve ever heard in my life. For about 30 seconds, he was just screaming and panting, laying on the ground, freaking out.”

QOL score: -1

Comment: *As reported by WMUR, “The city said it’s looking into what’s causing the shocks. It has cut power at all the reported sites as the investigation continues.”*

The odds may be in your favor

A recent study by VegasInsider.com compared payouts in lotteries across the country and found that “New Hampshire had the best overall chance of winning any sort of prize, with a 1-in-10 chance of winning something,” according to a Dec. 12 press release. The study used the official websites and odds chances of state lotteries. “The results showed that the games specific to New Hampshire, Kentucky, Iowa, and New Mexico have the most likely odds of winning the big prize of 1:10,000,” the press release read.

QOL score: +1

Comment: *New Hampshire’s relatively small population might be responsible. According to the press release, “bigger populated states with bigger state lottery jackpots were the least likely to succeed for the top money. New York had the worst chances, with a whopping 1-in-45,047,474, followed by Texas and Florida, which had chances of [one in] over 20 million.”*

Last week’s QOL score: 72

Net change: +1

QOL this week: 73

*What’s affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire?
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75

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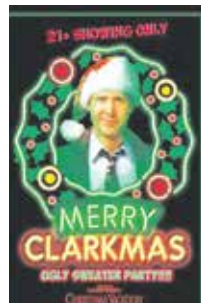
BIG EVENTS

DECEMBER 19 AND BEYOND

Thursday, Dec. 19

There will be a 21+ **Ugly Sweater Party** and screening of 1989's classic holiday movie **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** tonight at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888, chunkys.com) beginning at 8 p.m. Wear your ugliest sweater and you could win a Chunky's Gift Buck-

et for Two. Tickets are \$5.99 at the door or through Chunky's website.



7:30 p.m. This is your chance to witness world-class athletes going head-to-head with powerful bucking bulls. Two-day tickets start at \$73 through ticketmaster.com. Visit pbr.com/tours/unleash-the-beast.

Friday, Dec. 20

Vibe Yoga and Aerial Moon (182 Main St., Nashua, 759 8432, vibeyoga603.com) will host a **Winter Solstice Celebration and Journey**, tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. Mark the rebirth of the sun during this two-hour winter solstice celebration and Shamanic Journey led by Jeanelle Boyer. Register through the Vibe website. The cost is \$35.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Celebrate the holiday season with **Canadian Brass** tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterfortharts.com). Tickets start at \$39.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Get ready to embrace the holiday spirit with an unforgettable evening of music, dance and festive cheer as **Christmas with the Celts** takes the stage at the Stockbridge Theatre (22-98 Bypass 28, Derry, 437-5210, pinkertonacademy.org/stockbridge-theatre) tonight at 7p.m. Tickets start at \$35.

Saturday, Dec. 21

There will be a **Christmas Contra Dance** with Dudley Laufman & Friends at the Citywide Community Center (14 Canterbury Road, Concord, 225-8690, concordnh.wordpress.com).

Community-Center) tonight from 7 to 10 p.m. Beginners, singles and families are welcome. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 15 to 20, and children under 15 can dance for free. Visit concordnh.wordpress.com.



Save the Date!

Saturday, Dec. 28

Don't miss your chance to see what fans love about the **Harlem Globetrotters**: the dunks, alley-oops, loooong shots, magic, history and more. See Globetrotter stars and their renowned rivals, the Washington Generals, at SNHU Arena (555 Elm St. in Manchester; snhuarena.com). There will be shows at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$35.

Thursday, Dec. 19

Legendary rock band **Quiet Riot** will take to the stage at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusichall.com) at 8 p.m. with special guest **All Sinners**. Tickets start at \$50.

225-1111, ccanh.com) tonight at 8 p.m. Bathed in candlelight, skeletal players with rhinestone masks will switch between haunting melodies and powerful walls of sound. Tickets start at \$63.75.

Friday, Dec. 20

The rodeo is coming to the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com). **PBR's (Professional Bull Riders)** premier event, Unleash the Beast, will take place tonight and tomorrow, Saturday, Dec. 21, at

Friday, Dec. 20

The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight, a band of 14 classical musicians, breathing beautifully dark energy into rock and metal tracks, will perform at the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord,

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By John Fladd
jfladd@hippypress.com

Angie Lane spends a lot of time thinking about popcorn.

Lane is the Director of Red River Theatres in Concord. It's not an overstatement to say that popcorn is the lifeblood of any movie theater, and Lane takes it very seriously. Right now, during the busy holiday season, Red River uses up a 50-pound bag of unpopped popcorn seed every day and a half or so. For Lane, the secret to really good popcorn is real butter.

"We use anhydrous butter; the water has been removed," she said, "so it's shelf-stable, but it's real, actual butter."

(Sadly, one of the cold, harsh realities of life is that the "butter" on most theaters' popcorn is actually mostly partially-hydrogenated soybean oil, an industry salt called "Flavacol," beta carotene — the same vitamin that makes carrots orange — for color, tertiary butylhydroquinone — a preservative — and polydimethylsiloxane, an anti-foaming agent.)

While it is real butter (minus the water), Red River's butter isn't something you can buy off the shelf. "One time we ran out of butter during like *Barbenheimer*," Lane said, "and actually during *Wicked* we've run out of butter because there was some supply chain issue, and somebody said, 'Oh, we can just get butter from the supermarket!' I had to tell them that I didn't want to kill anybody, because [supermarket butter] is not shelf-stable once you heat it up and everything. But I love it when we run out of butter. It's an indicator that business is good."

According to Lane, only amateurs dump the butter on the top of a tub of popcorn. "We personally layer the butter because we're professionals," she said. "But I love it when people ask for extra butter, because people come to the theater for the movies but they also come for the popcorn."

"Historically speaking," Lane said, "there's just something about when you smell popcorn in the movie theater, like it

just goes together, and I think ... if you ask someone to think about a concession item at a movie theater, the first thing they would say is popcorn." She remembers the classic intermission cartoon that used to encourage movie-goers to buy concessions. "With the little marching concession people, it's always led by a little popcorn guy," she said. "When you were a kid, wasn't popcorn magical?"

Meredith Thomas spends most of her day thinking about popcorn, too. She and her husband, Ken, are the owners of Ken's Corn in Derry, a family business that sells popcorn at farmers markets, fairs and events and through a few small retail stores. Like many small food businesses, theirs started with a face-to-face relationship with customers. "We started at farmers markets and fairs and events," she said. "And that's still primarily where we meet our customers."

The business has expanded over the past two years. "It is a year-round business," Thomas said. "We are primarily busy from about April through Jan. 1. And then we kind of take a few months to regroup. This year we're going to be focusing on looking at more storefronts to get into just to keep expanding."

One of the things Thomas likes about popcorn is how versatile it is.

"We started in 2022 just making buttered [popcorn] and kettle corn as our base," she said. "Now we have seasonal ones, like in the fall. One of those is Caramel Choco — it tastes like a Twix bar! Now, we have a Cookie Explosion, which is like cookies and cream. And one of our savory flavors is a white cheddar."

Thomas said that coming up with new flavors comes easy to her. "I am ADD, so my brain is constantly running. But just going into a store and looking around — at even just candies or potato chips [is inspiring]. Sometimes our customers give us really great options. We've had a lot of requests lately for a dill pickle [flavor], so that's on our winter menu."

Home cooks have a natural knack for per-

sonalizing popcorn, she said.

"Before we started this business, one of my favorite snacks was to pop popcorn, either on the stove top or just the microwave bags. And then I always added pretzels and M&M's to it, so you get that sweet and salty flavor."

It's easy to understand why people love popcorn so much, Thomas said. "It is a quick, easy, on-the-go snack. Young, middle-class America is constantly on the go. So they're looking for a healthy, consumable snack that they can either eat where they are or take it on the go, running to sporting events or going to work. It also is an allergy-friendly snack, which can be hard to find. It's gluten-free, and depending on the flavor, dairy-free and nut-free."

Julie Lapham has been in the popcorn game even longer. She is the CEO and co-founder of Popzup Popcorn in Somersworth. She and her husband started their company in 2015. For them, making popcorn is an expression of some deeply-felt values.

"Our facility is located in an old, refurbished mill on the river," Lapham said. "That sort of reflects who we are in terms of our mission to be local and just to do the right thing, which basically is really fresh, farm fresh, pure and simple local ingredients, make it all ourselves, be sustainable, take good care of our employees, and give back to the community."

Popzup produces five flavors of popcorn for retail sales online and through supermarkets, but for the Laphams, selling popcorn and making it are intertwined.

"We also sell locally grown, non-GMO popcorn kernels in a microwave popcorn popper that we actually invented ourselves," she said. "It's called the Popzup Popper, which is where we came up with our name. And basically it's a reusable microwave popping box. It's made from virgin paperboard and it's printed with vegetable inks. It's, you know, totally chemical-free and ... reusable and sustainable."

Like Angie Lane, Lapham is a big believ-

er in real butter and dairy products. "What really differentiates us from other popcorn brands," she said, "is that we use a lot of real butter, real cheddar. There really aren't any other commercially available brands that use pure dairy. A lot of them have butter or cheddar or whatever, but for the most part they're ultra-processed foods, which [are referred to as] UPF. It's an actual term; all it means is that they are not real farm fresh dairy products. [Fresh dairy] is very much more difficult to work with and to protect because it goes bad quickly. Real butter and real cheddar and real truffles are very sensitive to light and heat and air. So we have to spend more to protect them and so those are more expensive."

Using sensitive ingredients involves putting a lot of thought into Popzup's packaging. The bags, for instance, are completely light-proof. "It's actually a foil-lined bag," Lapham said, "We really need to have that foil liner to protect the popcorn. We also do something called a nitrogen flush, which basically is right before we close the bag up and seal it, we flush it with nitrogen, which is just an inert gas. It's heavier than oxygen, and oxygen will cause popcorn to go bad and dairy to go bad, so we have to get that out of the bag, and seal it up tight. That's just an extra effort that we go through to make sure that our popcorn is delicious when somebody buys it."

For a family business, Popzup produces a lot of product.

"We go through about 10,000 pounds [of popcorn] every three weeks," Lapham said, "which is basically four full pallets at this point. But every year it's more and more." Early on, the Laphams decided to take a hands-on approach with their popcorn. Instead of using automated air poppers, which is the standard in the industry, "Ours is made the old-fashioned way," she said, "but basically on a commercial level. We have giant, real kettles that pop it, and then we take that and then we put it in giant tumblers where people put the seasoning on it and tumble that, and then we take that out

ensure that the right amount goes in every bag.”

In the beginning, Lapham said, their focus wasn't on producing seasoned popcorn.

“What we did is we let our customers tell us what the fan favorites were. We took those seasonings and that's what we used to season the popcorn that we started selling already seasoned. The first year was really spent deciding what flavors were the best flavors, what flavors the customers liked.

We started with four flavors: butter, cheddar, and then two vegan flavors, Cheesy Herby, which is made with nutritional yeast and herbs and spices, and then Maple Cinnamon Toast, which has like a kettle corn flavor but it's not candy coated, so it's nice and snackable — it's got this light sweet and salty maple flavor that you can eat a whole bag of and it's not like you've eaten badly. Last year we added a fifth. We added the truffle butter flavor; we buy real Italian black truffles and mix them with our butter and then put that on.”

Given how many varieties of popcorn are available, one or two types are perennial favorites. Kettle Corn enthusiasts are especially enthusiastic. Sean and Samantha Hallinan devote themselves to it. The Hallinans own and run The Burstin' Kernel. For the past two years they have made and sold kettle corn at farmers markets and events throughout southern New Hampshire. “We pretty much operate from springtime all the way through until December, when it just gets too cold,” Sean Hallinan said.

The Hallinans are particular about the variety of corn they use. “Basically you have different types of kernels,” Sean said, “and some kettle corn companies use one type versus another. We use a popcorn kernel that creates a very large pop; it's called a ‘mushroom’ style.”

Hallinan said the actual popping process is pretty straightforward.

“Basically, you throw [the kernels] in a kettle with some oil. The kettle we use is 160 quarts. It is a pretty large commercial unit. Then you throw sugar in, and stir it. We stir it by hand usually; we use a big wooden



Angie Lane, Director of Red River Theatres. Photo by John Fladd.

paddle to stir it, or for larger events we stir it with an automatic stirrer. When it's done, you dump it out of the kettle and you sift it through a sifting bin and salt it or put whatever flavorings on it. The sifting removes all the kernels and small bits. We try our best to get rid of them. You don't want people breaking their teeth on hard kernels that didn't pop.”

Kettle corn satisfies several cravings at once, Hallinan said. “I think people like the sweet and salty mix. We try our best to get the best recipes so that way it's not too much one way or the other. There's also a little bit of crunch to it as well, but not too sticky, so it doesn't get stuck in your teeth like caramel corn.”

According to Hallinan, making good kettle corn didn't have a steep learning curve.

“I saw someone doing it and got interested in it,” he said. “and then we worked on our own recipe over and over again for, I don't know, it probably took us maybe a week or so of trying different things until we got it just right.”

Given how much care and technique the Hallinans put into making popcorn during the day, their own popcorn consumption is pretty basic. “We kind of grew up on microwave popcorn,” he said, “so that's our default — easy, throw it in the microwave.”

Popcorn experts

Red River Theatres (11 S Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org) shows movies seven days a week. Visit the website for listings.

Ken's Corn (68 Chester Road, Derry, 208-661-0282, kenscorn.com) is available through small stores, including East Derry General Store (50 E. Derry Road, Derry, 432-5302, eastderrygeneralstore.com) and Prime Butcher 201 Route 111, Hampstead, 329-7355, primebutcher.com).

Popzup Popcorn (Canal Street Mill, 22 Canal St., Suite 358, Somersworth, 314-8314, popzup.com) sells five flavors of popcorn, poppers, seasonings and more online and in grocery stores nationwide.

The Burstin' Kernel (facebook.com/theburstinkernel) makes hot, fresh kettle corn on the spot at farmers markets and events throughout southern New Hampshire. The Hallinans also have a new food truck, Chew 'N' Screw. Check for availability and more at facebook.com/chwnscw.

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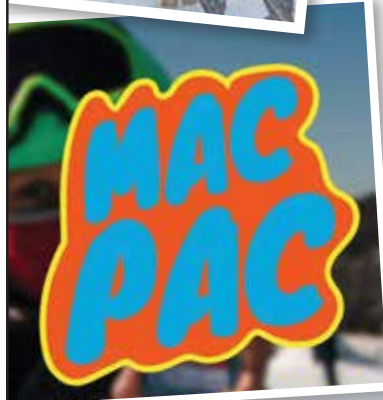
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Making good popcorn at home

Kristen Chinosi is the owner of and an instructor at The Culinary Playground in Derry. According to her, a good batch of popcorn starts with the oil it's cooked in.

"I always pick a heavy-bottomed pot, and I like to use coconut oil," she said. "It gives it a little bit of different flavor, though, so you can really use an oil that you prefer the flavor of, whether it's a vegetable oil or an olive oil. You just have to watch how hot you have it because some of those oils have a lower smoke point." (This means that different oils burn at different temperatures. Refined peanut or canola oils, for instance, have a high smoke point, which means they can be heated to a high temperature before they start to break down. Extra virgin olive oil and butter have low smoke points; they burn easily.)

Chinosi heats her oil before adding popcorn kernels to it.

"I like to get my oil nice and warmed in the bottom, and I'll put a couple pieces of popcorn in until I hear it pop. I have a lid kind of halfway, you know, maybe like a quarter of it exposed when the lid is on. And once I hear it pop, I know the oil is hot enough, and then I go ahead and add the rest of my popcorn. Honestly, I just eyeball it. I put maybe an eighth of an inch of oil on the bottom of the pan or pot, and then I cover the bottom of the pot with the raw kernels; that ratio seems to work pretty well. I do like to put salt on at that time. So I'll go ahead and salt the kernels before they've popped. After that, I let them do all their popping. I shake the pot. I keep it over medium heat. I'd rather it go a little slower than burn, so I shake the pot often. And then when it's done, I either salt it additionally, and add some melted butter. You could put cinnamon butter on there. You could add some different flavorings if you wanted a spicier popcorn — some red pepper flakes or cayenne pepper. You could add a little bit of lemon zest on there for kind of a different twist that plays well with the salt and the acidity of the lemon."

Spicy Popcorn Granola Clusters

These are sweet, peanut snacks, with a generous amount of spice on the back end. Adapted from a recipe on the Bob's Red Mill website, this version has a reduced amount of chili oil.

8 cups (80 to 90 g) popped popcorn – I like to use pre-popped, movie theater-style popcorn that I buy in large bags from the supermarket

1 package (about 300 g) peanut butter granola – I like Bare Naked or Trader Joe's brand



Spicy Popcorn Granola Clusters. Photo by John Fladd.

- 1 cup (235 g) light corn syrup
- 1/3 cup (78 g) Chinese chili oil
- 1/4 cup (65 g) smooth peanut butter

Preheat oven to 250°F. Mix granola and popcorn together in a large bowl, and set aside. Lightly oil a large wooden spoon or a silicone spatula.

Over medium heat, bring corn syrup, chili oil and peanut butter to 235°F; if you are using a candy thermometer, this is the "soft ball" stage, stirring often.

Pour the hot syrup over the popcorn mixture, stirring to coat thoroughly. Turn the sticky mixture out onto a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat.

Bake for one hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven, and set aside until the pan is cool to the touch. Break the popcorn mix into clusters, and store in an airtight container.

Variation: Before baking, you can pack the mixture into parchment-lined baking pans, and bake for the full hour without stirring. Before it has cooled completely, use a sharp knife to cut into bars.

Raised Eyebrows Popcorn Balls

Offer one of these excellent popcorn balls to a friend, they will take a bite, pause, take a second bite, then look thoughtfully at you with raised eyebrows, completely reassessing your potential. These popcorn balls offer a nearly perfect ratio of sugar, salt, butter, peanuts, and of course corn. I adapted a recipe from the Food and Wine website with changes in some of the ingredients.

- 20 cups (around 200 g) movie-style popcorn
- 4 cups (124 g) Corn Chex cereal
- 1 1/2 cups (225 g) dry roasted peanuts
- 3 cups (595 g) sugar
- 1 1/2 cups (468 g) light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1/2 cup (120 g) water
- 1 glug (1 to 1 1/2 teaspoons) vanilla
- 1 Tablespoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon chipotle chili powder



Popcorn balls. Photo by John Fladd.

In a very large, lightly oiled bowl, combine the popcorn, peanuts and cereal. Set aside.

In a saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup, butter, and water, and cook over medium-low heat until it reaches 295°F ("hard crack" stage), stirring occasionally. When the sugar syrup has come to temperature, stir in the vanilla, salt and chili powder.

Pour the hot sugar mixture over the popcorn, cereal and peanuts, and mix to combine with a lightly oiled wooden spoon or silicone spatula. Most of the peanuts will have fallen to the bottom of the bowl, so take care to flip the caramel corn over once or twice while you stir, to make sure they are incorporated.

With lightly oiled hands, or lightly oiled gloved hands, break off 2- to 3-inch blobs of the popcorn mixture, gently shape them into balls, and place them on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper or a silicone mat. You will have to work fast — the caramel will be very hot, so you'll have to let it cool a little, but will also be in a race to form the balls before the mixture sets up too much. You will end up with 30 or so balls.

Store these in an airtight container for three or four days, but they are best on the first day, when the popcorn is still crisp.

Popcorn Vodka

Popcorn has a distinct flavor that lends itself to infusing into alcohol. Vodka is a good choice for this, because it is generally neutral in flavor and will let the taste of the popcorn shine through.

popcorn – either freshly popped or movie-style from the supermarket or even from a movie theater

1 bottle of vodka – because you will be infusing it with a flavor that would overwhelm any subtleties in the vodka, a mid-range vodka will be best for this; I like Gordon's or Mr. Boston. Avoid the very cheapest vodka, which might have off-flavors and taste chemically.



Popcorn Vodka. Photo by John Fladd.

You know that hole in the lid to your blender that you've always wondered about? You finally get to use it. Pour the vodka into the jar of your blender, and add about an equal amount — by volume — of popcorn. Put the lid on the blender, and blend the popcorn and vodka together on the lowest setting. Once the initial popcorn has been pulverized, go ahead and add more through the hole in the lid, a handful at a time. Stop from time to time, to check on your progress.

When the popcorn fragments and the vodka seem to take up the same amount of space, pour the mixture off into an airtight container, and put it somewhere cool and dark for two to three days, shaking it occasionally.

After the vodka and popcorn have had time to get to know each other, pour the mixture through a fine mesh strainer, then through a coffee filter in a funnel, into an empty bottle — maybe the original one that the vodka came in, labeled with the date and a short description, so in a couple of weeks, when you find a faintly yellow bottle of alcohol, you'll remember what's in it.

Variation: If you're an impatient sort of person, you can speed the infusion process up by putting your airtight container in a hot water bath. Let it soak at 150°F for two hours, then strain and filter, as above. This is an excellent use for a sous vide, if you have one. Be aware that if you use actual movie theater popcorn for this hot water bath technique, your final product will be a golden yellow color, from the artificial color the theater or supermarket uses in its "butter."

A cocktail for your Popcorn Vodka: A Caramel Corn Daisy

- 3 ounces popcorn vodka (see above)
- 1 ounces fresh squeezed lemon juice
- 1/2 ounce maple syrup, the darkest you can find – the darker the syrup, the more mapley it will taste

Combine all ingredients over ice in a cocktail shaker. Shake thoroughly, and strain over fresh ice in a rocks glass.

Maple and lemon are the dominant fla-

corn in this drink, with the popcorn bringing up the rear, leaving you with a subtle popcorn flavor between sips.

Cinnamon Caramel Corn

This fire truck red corn gets its flavor and color from hot cinnamon candies. This is another recipe adapted from Bob's Red Mill with the addition of some Szechuan pepper.

8 cups (around 200 g) freshly popped or movie theater-style popcorn

A 9-ounce (255 g) box of "hot" cinnamon candy (like Hot Tamales or Atomic Fireballs)

2 cups (237 g) light corn syrup

2 teaspoons Szechuan peppercorns, crushed

Preheat oven to 250°F. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat.

Measure the popcorn into a large bowl, and set aside.

In a medium saucepan, cook the cinnamon candies, corn syrup, and Szechuan pepper to 235°F; stirring often. When it has come to temperature, pour the mixture over the popcorn, and stir to combine with a lightly oiled silicone spatula. The candy will set up quickly, so this requires haste.

Spread the cinnamon corn on your baking sheet, and bake for an hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Remove from the oven to cool, then break into small pieces.

The flavor of this popcorn is much as you'd expect. It tastes like cinnamon candies. The surprise is in its texture. Baking it has made the popcorn crispy, which contrasts with the toffee-like chewiness of the candy coating. Milk and cookies are a classic to leave for Santa; this, paired with a caramel corn cocktail, could be an alternative.

Miso Caramel Popcorn

Miso is a fermented soybean paste. Its salty, funky nature provides a good counterpoint to the sweetness of caramel. The original recipe is adapted from a recipe on the Food and Wine website.

9 cups (90 to 95 g) freshly popped or movie-style popcorn

6 Tablespoons (1½ sticks) butter

½ cup (99 g) packed brown sugar

¼ cup (4 Tablespoons or 60 g) white miso

2 Tablespoons light corn syrup

1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil

sea salt

½ teaspoon baking soda

3 Tablespoons sesame seeds

Measure popcorn into a large plastic or glass bowl, and set aside.

Toast the sesame seeds in a dry pan over



Miso Caramel Popcorn. Photo by John Fladd.

medium-low heat, stirring or tossing continuously. They will deepen in color and release a nutty flavor. As soon as the seeds have darkened to a tawny color, like a lion, transfer them immediately to a plate to cool. If you keep them in the pan, they will continue to cook and might burn.

In a small saucepan, combine the butter, brown sugar, miso, corn syrup, sesame oil, and ½ teaspoon of salt. Cook over medium-low heat until the butter has melted and the mixture is bubbling. Whisk in the baking soda. This will make the caramel foam up; it's supposed to.

Pour the miso caramel over the popcorn, and stir to combine with a lightly oiled silicone spatula. Add the sesame seeds you toasted earlier, and stir it again.

Place the bowl in your microwave, and cover it with a paper towel, to keep any splatter contained. Any drops of caramel that splash onto the sides or ceiling of your microwave will bond there like industrial concrete.

Cook the popcorn in your microwave for 1½ minutes.

Turn the popcorn out onto a baking sheet covered with parchment paper or a silicone mat, and sprinkle with more salt. Allow it to cool for 15 minutes before breaking it into pieces and serving.

French Onion Popcorn

This combines the best of two classic snacks, popcorn and chips and dip.

8 cups (80 to 90 g) freshly popped or movie-style popcorn

6 Tablespoons (¾ stick) butter, melted and cooled

1 ounce dry onion soup mix (about half a standard 2-ounce packet)

This is about as simple as it gets. It hardly seems fair to call this a "recipe."

Measure the popcorn into a large bowl.

Pour the melted butter over it, stirring to combine.

Sprinkle half the soup mix over the popcorn and stir to combine, then repeat with the remaining soup mix. Serve with beer, or better yet, Champagne. 🍷

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Christmas bells are ringing

Sounds of a handbell choir

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

Experience what a bell can do at upcoming performances by one of the two quartets from the Granite State Ringers, the Garage Bell Band.

“The Granite State Ringers were founded in 2007 as an opportunity for ringers around the state of New Hampshire to ring at a higher level. At that time, many of our ringers were involved with church hand-held choirs, and they wanted a little more challenge in their music. So that was how the group was founded,” said Joan Fossum, Music Director and co-founder of the Granite State Ringers.

“We began with just inviting people from all over the state to come and ring with us and then what evolved is we are now an auditioned handbell choir and we offer auditions usually in the summer before we begin the fall to winter programs,” she said.

The organization has two performing quartets as well as the choir. “We are based in Concord. We have a studio in Concord, New Hampshire, and people come from all over the state and Maine and Massachusetts

to ring with the group.”

The other quartet in the organization is the Rainy Day Ringers. “Those are names that were self-selected by the group, they fall under the auspices of the Granite State Ringers.”

Fossum explained how a collection of bells can produce songs: “The full choir plays on five and a half octaves of handbells. We have five and a half octaves of Malmark handbells and we have three octaves of Schulmerich handbells; we also have six octaves of hand chimes and that’s what the full choir plays on. The quartets vary for the music that they play. And again, the music is selected by the individual group.”

The audience at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey can expect holiday favorites to ring throughout the night. “We range from ... a very rhythmic arrangement of ‘Up on the House Top’ to a series of pieces that we hope, the guiding light this year, that they would bring peace and comfort to people this time of year. For example, one of the pieces is the Bach/Gounod Ave Maria. Another is one written specifically for solo handbells and piano called ‘At Peace’ by Brian Childers.



Granite State Ringers. Courtesy photo.

The crew always keeps their handbell skills up to speed.

“We have rehearsals two to three times a month for three hours each time we get together. The quartet practices at least once a week for two to three hours. So that gives you an idea of the kind of time investment we have. If you’ve never seen us, you should come to one of the concerts.”

The chimes and bells vary in size and shape depending on their octave and note.

“Hand chimes are aluminum and they look, from the side, a lot like a tuning fork.... The biggest hand chime we have is about 6 feet tall and it sounds very much like one of the big pipes on a full-size organ, down to the smallest ones, which are about 4 inches long.... The longer the pipe the deeper the sound,” Fossum said.

The bells follow a similar pattern.

“Small bells are about 2 inches. The bell casting itself is about a little over 2 inches, all the way up to probably, I haven’t actually measured one, close to 12 to 14 inches from the rim of the bell to the bottom of it.” Each bell is like a key on a piano. “You have your natural notes or your regular notes, if you will, and those on the piano are usually the white keys, and then the accidentals are usu-

ally the black keys.... So if you have middle C, an accidental that would go with it would be C sharp, so that would be that black key that’s up and next to C, between C and D. So each finger in a full choir then is responsible for two notes and the accidental.”

If this talk of hand bells has awakened something inside you, you are in luck.

“We have auditions in the summertime and we’re constantly looking for people that would be interested in being part of the group. The commitment level is pretty high, so you’ve got to really want to do it.”

Granite State Ringers even have an option for those looking to learn the craft as well as an option for younger handbell ringers. “[The] non-auditioned learning choir [is for those who] have been interested ... but don’t have the skill and/or the time to be part of the big group.”

An open house for prospective ringers will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon.

“So if you’re interested in learning more about bells I would encourage you to come visit the studio on the 11th of January,” Fossum said. 🌱

Granite State Ringers: Garage Bell Band

When: Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

Where: The Park Theatre, 19 Main St., Jaffrey

Tickets: \$20. Children 12 and under \$15. theparktheatre.org or call 532-9300 granitestateringers.org

Granite State Ringers Open House

When: Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. to noon

Where: 2 Industrial Park Drive, Building 2, Concord granitestateringers.org

Art

Craft fairs

• **The Craftworkers’ Guild shop in Bedford** (3a Meetinghouse Road, down the hill in the Library parking lot) is open for the holiday season. The shop is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sunday, Dec. 22. See thecraftworkersguild.org.

• **The Holly Jolly Craft Fair** will be held at the DoubleTree Hilton (2 Somerset Plaza, Nashua) on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. More than 75 artisans will be selling their holiday crafts, including holiday wreaths and centerpieces, reindeer and gnomes, country folk art and more. Visit joycescraftshows.com.

Exhibits

• **“Small Works — Big Impact”** holiday exhibit is now at Creative Ventures Gallery (411 Nashua St., Milford) and will run until Dec.

21, showcasing work in various media from more than 30 area artists, with most pieces smaller than 12 inches in diameter, making them ideal for holiday gifts. The gallery’s hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday from noon to 6 p.m., Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Visit creativeventuresfineart.com or call 672-2500

• **“Small Wonders Miniature Art Show”** is at the Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St., Manchester; mosaicartcollective.com) through Sunday, Dec. 22. The exhibition is described as a “celebration of small-scale art that packs a big punch,” according to the website.

• **“A Celebration of Light”** Two Villages Art Society (846 Main St. in Contoocook; twovillagesart.org) will hold its 2024 Winter

Members Show and Sale, “A Celebration of Light,” through Saturday, Dec. 28.

• **“Big Gifts Come in Small Packages”** at the Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St., Exeter). The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Holiday hours: Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Christmas Eve hours will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit seacoastartist.org.

• **Glimpse Gallery’s** (Patriot Building, 4 Park St., Concord) newest exhibit runs through Jan. 9, featuring works from artists Pat Arzillo, Byron Carr, Julie Daniels, Mark Ferland, David Wiggins, Barbara Morse and Michael McCormack, as well as a selection from curator Christina Landry-Boullion. Visit theglimpsegallery.com or call 892-8307

Theater

• **Disney’s Frozen** presented by Ogunquit Playhouse at the Music Hall (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, the musicall.org) through Sunday, Dec. 22, with shows Wednesdays through Thursdays (except for Thanksgiving). See specific days and times for ticket prices.

• **The Nutcracker** The Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth; seacoastrep.org, 433-4793) presents a unique modern rendition reimaging that infuses the timeless tale with jazz and contemporary flair and that will run from through Sunday, Dec. 22. Ticket prices range from \$37 to \$68.

• **A Christmas Carol** presented by Players’ Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St., Portsmouth; playersring.org) from through Dec. 23. Shows are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 and 7

p.m. as well as select Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$18 to \$32.

• **A Christmas Carol** at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org) through Sunday, Dec. 29, with showtimes at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, 2 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays as well as Thursdays, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 to \$45.

• **A Christmas Carol** presented by the Rochester Opera House (31 Wakefield St., Rochester; rochesteroperahouse.com, 335-1992) through Sunday, Dec. 22, with showtimes on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m. and an additional performance on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$22 to \$30.

• **The Nutcracker** presented by Ballet Misha on Saturday, Dec.

21, at 1 and 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Tickets cost between \$30 and \$35. Visit tickets.anselm.edu to purchase tickets online or call 641-7700.

• **The Nutcracker** presented by the New Hampshire School of Ballet presents on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (14 Canterbury Road, Concord). Tickets can be purchased at the door and are \$25. There will be an additional performance on Sunday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased at the box office or online at palacetheatre.org or call 668-5588.

• **British Invasion II** presented by the Majestic Theatre (880 Page St., Manchester, majestictheatre.net) on Saturday, Jan. 11, featuring

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THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Still some *Nutcracker*:** The *Nutcracker* season is not over yet. Ballet Misha will present *The Nutcracker* on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 1 and 6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Dana Center (Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). Ballet Misha's production is performed by professional dancers in the company, as well as apprentice company members and students at its affiliate school, Dimensions in Dance, according to a press release. The cast consists of more than 130 dancers who have rehearsed for months for this production involving hundreds of vibrant costumes, five beautiful sets and the music of Tchaikovsky, according to the press release. Tickets cost \$30 to \$35. Visit tickets.anselm.edu to purchase tickets online or call 641-7700.

The New Hampshire School of Ballet presents a full-length version of *The Nutcracker* on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 2 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (14 Canterbury Road, Concord). Tickets can be purchased at

additional performance on Sunday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester). Tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased at the box office or online at palacetheatre.org or by calling 668-5588.

• **Choir and strings:** The First Church (1 Concord St. in Nashua; first-music.org) will present the 4th Advent worship services "**Christmas at First**" with Cantata 61 with the Chancel Choir and First Music Chamber Strings on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 9 and 11 a.m.

• **Seasonal music:** The Word Barn (66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com) wraps up its 12 Nights of Christmas series of shows at the Orchard Chapel (143 Exeter Road in Hampton Falls). The last installments include **A Celtic Christmas with Lunasa** on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 5 and 8 p.m.; **The Orchard Chapel Candlelight Carol Sing** on Friday, Dec. 20, at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 5:30 p.m., plus a family matinee version on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m.; **A Winter Solstice Celebration with Low Lily** on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7 p.m., and **A Holiday Family Story Hour** on Monday, Dec. 23, from 6 to 7 p.m.

• **New exhibit:** The exhibit **Searching for Natural Moments: Scenes from African Safaris and Costa Rican Rainforests** will be at the New Hampshire Audubon

McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord) on Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will showcase photographs by Howard Muscott, according to their website. Muscott will be sharing images from two of Kenya's most prolific wildlife locations and various habitats in Costa Rica and will take those who attend "on Safari ... in the Masai Mara National Reserve and Amboseli National Park looking for iconic mammals like lions and cubs, leopards, cheetahs, elephants and zebras and other wildlife and on trails in the rain forests of Costa Rica in search of monkeys and birds," according to the website. The exhibition will be on display until Saturday, Dec. 28. Visit nhaudubon.org or call 224-9909.

• **Calling artists:** The Seacoast Artist Association in downtown Exeter has announced its 2025 Theme Show calendar and all Seacoast artists are invited to enter,

music and performances.

Classical

• **Canadian Brass** will perform Saturday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, nashua-centerforthearts.com). Tickets cost \$39 through \$79.

• "**Christmas at First**" The First Church (1 Concord St. in Nashua; first-music.org) will present the 4th Advent worship services "Christ-

mas at First" with Cantata 61 with the Chancel Choir and First Music Chamber Strings on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

• "**Familiar Classics for Brass**" with **Portsmouth Brass Quintet** a Family Matinee Series performance by the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel St., Portsmouth. The concert will feature music from baroque and classical periods, according to portsmouthsymphony.org. \$15 suggested donation at the door.

• **Illuminated Ensemble** — **HeartStrings** a concert from Symphony NH featuring candle lighting, a string quartet and a pre-concert reception with wine and chocolate on Friday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, cconh.com). Tickets cost \$37. See symphonynh.org.

music and performances.

• **Familiar Classics for Brass** with **Portsmouth Brass Quintet** a Family Matinee Series performance by the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel St., Portsmouth. The concert will feature music from baroque and classical periods, according to portsmouthsymphony.org. \$15 suggested donation at the door.

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'69 Buick refuses to stop running

CAR TALK



By Ray Magliozzi

Dear Car Talk: I have a 1969 Buick with a 430-cubic-inch engine. It will start and run fine. But when I go to turn the car off, it keeps on running, even though the key is all the way in the "off" position. The only way to stop the engine is by disconnecting the positive cable of the battery and turning the key to the crank position. The only thing to add is that when I go to put the positive cable back on, it sparks like something is on, even though nothing is on. Any help would be appreciated. — Bob

OK, how about if I help you write a classified ad for this thing, Bob?

Actually, I think the problem is your ignition switch. The ignition switch is on the side of the steering column.

The ignition switch has three or four positions. There's the spring-loaded "start" or "crank" position, which temporarily fires up the starter motor until the engine is running. There's the "run" position, which is where the key springs back to once you release it.

In the "run" position, power goes to the coil, which powers the spark plugs. There's often an "auxiliary" position, which lets you run a few low-powered accessories. My wife uses that to listen to the radio while she waits for me outside the butt-lift clinic. And then there's the "off" position, in which there's no power going to anything. Except on your Buick, Bob.

I think your switch just wore out after a mere 55 years. It's allowing electricity to power the coil even in the "off" position. And once running, engines will keep running, unless something interrupts them, like lack of fuel or lack of spark. That's also why you see sparks when you reattach the battery terminal. It seems like something is on because something *is* on. The switch is, effectively, still in the "run" position.

So, ask your mechanic if he can test the ignition switch for you. My memory of '69 Buicks is thankfully fading, but I think you may be able to unplug the switch without taking the whole steering column apart. That would allow your mechanic to plug in a new switch and try it out and see if it solves the problem.

If it does, then he can remove the steering

wheel, pull the column apart and permanently install the new one. Then your car will

"not run," like most other '69 Buicks. Visit Cartalk.com.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna, Can you possibly help to determine if any of these necklaces are real pearls? They belonged to my grandma and I inherited them. Not going to part with them. Just would like to know more information.

Katie

Dear Katie,

So nice to hear that you are keeping your grandmother's necklaces. That's how memories get passed down. From the photos you send I believe your necklaces are just costume. Remember back in the day costume jewelry was so popular and worn a lot.

Let's give you some information to help you determine on your own first. Slowly look closely at all the stones. Or you can find an inconspicuous place on one of the stones. Use a needle to just scratch the surface, just a tiny spot so as to not cause damage. Katie, you will



see a light coating over a white stone covered with a pearl-like film (artificially made). Most old pearl necklaces have a gold clasp (would be marked 10kt or 14kt usually) and always individually knotted off. All this for strength and to prevent losing pearls if broken.

Katie, even though I feel confident in my appraisal, it's easy and doesn't take much time for a jeweler to confirm. There are always exceptions. I hope this was helpful and I'm happy to help with your necklaces. I bet your grandmother would be happy to know you're keeping them!

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



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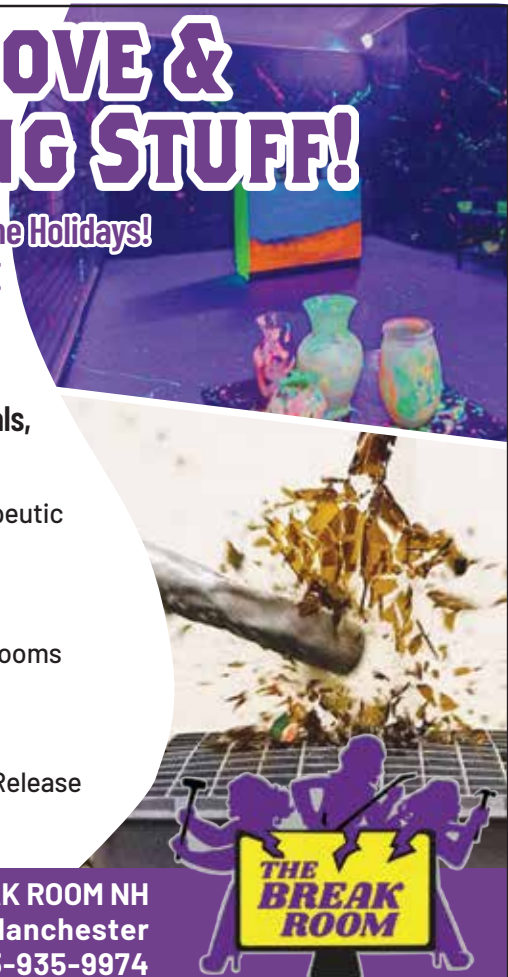
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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever



Looking at lights

• Drive around and check out the holiday lights in the **Southern New Hampshire Tour of Lights**, which features participating houses in Amherst, Atkinson, Auburn, Bedford, Danville, Derry, Goffstown, Hampstead, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Nashua, Pelham and Salem, according to merrimackpark-sandrec.org/nh-tour-of-lights, one of the participating parks and rec departments where you can find the list of addresses.

• **LaBelle Lights** at LaBelle Winery (14 Route 111, Derry) is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. until Sunday, Jan. 19. See the story on page 32.

• **Gift of Lights at NH Motor Speedway** (1122 Route 106, Loudon) consists of more than 250 light displays spanning 2½ miles through a 150-foot tunnel through Sunday, Jan. 5. This year the drive-thru light show will feature a 150-foot RGB Tunnel of Lights, arches, toys, and numerous scenes including the popular 12 Days of Christmas. Tickets are \$35 per car load, \$60 per bus, limousine or RV, and \$2 in addition per person when there are more than 15 guests. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the New Hampshire chapter of Speedway Children's Charities. Gift of Lights will open at 4:30 p.m. nightly, depending on weather conditions. Visit nhms.com.

Day at the museum

Looking to get some kids out of your house during the holiday week-and-half? Here are some area museums that will be closed for Dec. 25 but offer hours on other days to accommodate families looking for something to do.

• Regular hours at the **SEE Science Center** (200 Bedford St., Manchester, see-sciencecenter.org, 669-0400) are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with last admission 3 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with last admission at 4 p.m. SEE will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, but will be open on Mondays, Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. Admission is \$14 per person ages 3 and up.

• **The Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, 669-4820, aviationmuseumofnh.org) is normally open Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. For the break it will also be open Thursday, Dec.

26, and Monday, Dec. 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and open early, at 10 a.m., on Sunday, Dec. 29. Admission costs \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors age 65 and over, veterans, active duty and kids ages 6 through 12, and is free for kids age 5 and under, with a \$30 maximum for families.

• **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive, Concord, starhop.com, 271-7827) will have special shopping hours through Friday, Dec. 20, and the Science Store gift shop will be open from 10:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day (the exhibits and planetarium will be closed on those days). They will also be open to the public daily Saturday, Dec. 21, to Monday, Dec. 23, as well as Thursday, Dec. 26, to Tuesday, Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3 to 12, \$12 for students, and free for members and children under age 2.

• **The Children's Museum of New Hampshire** (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to noon, with an additional session from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. They will be closed Monday, Dec. 23, through Wednesday, Dec. 25.

• **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St., Manchester, 669-6144, currier.org) is open Wednesday (closed Dec. 25) through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children 12 and under always have free gallery admission. The Currier will be hosting a Creative Studio: Special Edition! where children and adults can drop in to participate in a free art activity that complements the Looking Together Tour's celebrated exhibition of the day on Friday, Dec. 27, with paper lanterns inspired by Dan Dailey and on Saturday, Dec. 28, with collage inspired by Basquiat from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Green Studio, on the lower level of the museum, according to their website.

• **The Millyard Museum** (200 Bedford St., Manchester, manchesterhistoric.org, 622-7531) is generally open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24; Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and college students, \$5 for children ages 12 to 18, and free for children under 12.



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Holidays on tap

Local breweries celebrate the season with holiday flavors

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippypress.com

News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippypress.com

Andy Day loves holiday beers. For a very short time.

“It’s one of those things, for me,” Day said, “where you want to see a very limited release and then you want to see it disappear and then move on and move forward.” Day is the brewer and co-owner of Daydreaming Brewing Co. in Derry. He said there can be a tendency in the brewing industry to feature a seasonal beer too long.

“Take the pumpkin thing for example,” he said. “You’ve started to see that creep into July releases. By the time you get to mid-October it’s kind of played out and people are not really interested anymore and there’s a whole bunch of beer that just sits there.”

December is when many breweries roll out special releases of holiday beers, many of which are very dark — stouts and porters — with a high alcohol-by-volume percentage (ABV), sometimes as high as 10 or 12 percent, about the same as wine.

“Generally speaking,” Day said, “for the winter months, you’re going to have your imperial stouts and things”

This year **Daydreaming Brewing Co.** (1 1/2 E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, cask.life/daydreaming-brewing-co) is featuring a special holiday beer: The Noggy Elf.

“Two years ago, a friend of ours came into the brewery and she asked — this was probably in August — ‘Can you make a beer that tastes like eggnog?’ We mostly focus on English-style ales and traditional recipes, but she put it to me to make an eggnog beer. So I did a five and a half percent [ABV] golden ale that was flavored with cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, some vanilla and sort of gave you the characteristics of eggnog without actually being a thick, creamy eggnog.”

“So some fans of the original 5.5% Nog beer wanted to do an imperial (lager) barrel-aged version of it. So that’s what we did. We more or less doubled up on the recipe. We stuck it in ex-bourbon barrels, Heaven Hill’s bourbon barrels, for the better part of six months. Then we pulled it out and we treated it with cinnamon, nutmeg, etc., etc., and that’s where Noggy Elf came from,” Day said.

Day said The Noggy Elf has gotten a good response. “People have said it tastes like you’re drinking Christmas. ... There’s definitely a little bit of oak and vanilla from the bourbon. It is deceptive in nature in that it is 10.5% [ABV], but it drinks like a much lower-alcohol beer, so it’s kind of one of those you’ve got to pace yourself and pay attention.”

More holiday brews

Concord Craft Brewing (117 Storrs St., Concord, 856-7625, concordcraftbrewing.com) has two **Bourbon Barrel Aged Stouts** on tap, a 2024 and a 2021. Both are imperial stouts with an ABV of 9.3%. Concord Craft says, “We have aged our imperial stout in Knob Creek bourbon barrels. ... the bourbon flavor blends seamlessly with the maltiness of the stout and also gives a subtle oaky finish.”

Feathered Friend Brewing (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) has several dark, deep, seasonal beers on tap, including **BA Trouble Behind**, a doppelbock, with an ABV of 9.8%. Brewed in house, it is aged in barrels from Steadfast Spirits Distilling Co. (134 Hall St., Suite. H, Concord, 333-2162, steadfastspiritsdistilling.square.site).

Flying Goose Brew Pub and Grill (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) is serving its winter beer on tap - Kong, a Russian Imperial Stout with



The Noggy Elf by Daydreaming Brewing Co.

an authoritative ABV of 10.5%. There is also **Directionless Perfectionist**, a sour American krieg (cherry beer), with an ABV of 6.7%

From The Barrel Brewing Co. (1 Corporate Park Drive, Derry, 328-1896, ftb-838342.square.site) lists, on its website, three seasonal stouts on tap: **Into the Void Coffee Vanilla Stout**, **Into the Void Peanut Butter Stout** and **Into the Void Coconut Stout**.

Liquid Therapy Brewery and Grill (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391, liquidtherapy-nh.com) is offering a **Soul Shard Imperial Stout** on draft. It weighs in at a hefty 11.7% ABV and is described on the Liquid Therapy website as “aged on cinnamon, marshmallow, vanilla, and rum-soaked oak.”

Look for the **Gingerbread Summit Porter** at **Mountain Base Brewery** (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 935-7132, mountainbasebrewery.com). At 7.3% ABV, Mountain Base describes it on its website as a “Sweet milk stout with a seasonal gingerbread taste. Black in color with the milky feel of chocolate, caramel, and gingerbread.”

According to its website, **Oddball Brewing** (6 Glass St., Suncook, 210-5654, oddballbrewing-nh.com) has **Yer A Hairy Wizard Spiced Stout** on tap at 5.6% ABV, as well as **3 on the**

CONTINUED ON PG 25 ▶

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Setting the scene — in chocolate

Chocolate bars serve as a canvas for edible art

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Laurie Lowy sat at a small table in the corner of Dancing Lion Chocolate in downtown Manchester, bent over a 3- by 5-inch bar of chocolate, painting a winter scene. She dipped the tip of her paintbrush into one of the pigments resting in a warm-water bath just off to her right. Carefully, but without stress, she painted an olive green line on the chocolate in front of her, marking out the top of a small triangle. Another dip of the brush led to another, slightly larger triangle just below it, then another below that. All of us have tried to draw or paint a pine tree like this at some point, but when Lowy did it, a realistic-looking tree appeared on the chocolate.

“My background is art,” she said. “I went to the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Florida, but I’m here for a week on vaca-

tion, and I’ve been put to work.” Lowy is the mother of master chocolatier Richard Tango-Lowy, the owner of Dancing Lion. “I am painting chocolates here,” she said, “but I live in Florida.”

She looked up, smiled, switched brushes, then started to fill in her tree with a different shade of green. The brush put color on the chocolate less smoothly, adding texture to the tree.

“I mostly do mosaics now,” she said, “tables, backsplashes, that sort of thing. But these, for me, these are just fun. I mean, it’s creative, but it makes me pull for myself.”

One of the advantages to being the boss’s mother, she said, is a large amount of creative freedom. The chocolate bars she was working on this morning were all winter landscapes — one with a tiny, red-coated figure pulling a sled — but that was what she was in the mood for. “[I paint] whatever I choose to do,” she said. “When Richard and I talked before I got here, he said, ‘All right, Mom, what’s it going to be?’ And I said, ‘I think I’m doing trees.’ So that’s it; every single one of them I’ve done this time have had trees of some sort.”

Lowy switched brushes again, picking up

one with a wider head, dipping it in white pigment, and started surrounding her tree with snow and dimpling the surface of the tree with small blobs of white. She cleaned the brush off, then dipped it into a completely different pigment, a muted gold color. With quick, smooth movements, she put gold highlights on the snow, and suddenly the scene was three-dimensional, and the light was the way it is on a late winter afternoon.

Lowy pointed to the jars of pigment in the water bath next to her. Although it makes sense to call what she does “chocolate painting,” she said, she doesn’t actually use paint. “It’s melted cocoa butter,” she said. Because it is a component of chocolate, it bonds easily to a chocolate bar, and is completely edible. “This,” she said, indicating the electric water bath, “keeps all these very melted. Because it’s chocolate. So, as soon as I turn this off, these harden, and then I can’t use them at all.”

She added some light gray tones to the snow in her tiny painting, and suddenly, there were snowbanks.

“The last time I did this — which was probably four years ago — we took pictures all over town,” Lowy said, reaching for a broad, feathered brush. “And I did pictures of



Laurie Lowy at Dancing Lion Chocolate. Photo by John Fladd.

buildings. It was very cool. But this time, I just wanted to go back to nature.”

Because Dancing Lion does not make chocolates from precise recipes, each batch is slightly different from any other, so each of these hand-painted chocolate bars is completely unique. “This is one-of-a-kind,” Lowy said. “A one-off. Every time I’m doing 12 and each one is entirely different.”

It’s hard to imagine someone actually eating one of these chocolate paintings, and Lowy said that sometimes people are reluctant to.

“That is a tendency,” she said. “But Richard always tries to explain, we create these things to eat.” 🍫

Chocolate art

Laurie Lowy’s hand-painted edible chocolate landscapes are available at Dancing Lion Chocolate (917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us/cacao) for \$140 each.



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IN THE KITCHEN



WITH EDMOND DAVID HOOD

Hood is a butcher and co-owner of Old Boy's Butcher Shop (707 Route 101A, Merrimack, 699-8014). Dave Hood has been working a butcher counter since his teens.

"I worked in a grocery store — DeMoulas — since I was 15, and it was the department that paid the most. That's how I fell into the profession," he said. "I worked with Market Basket for 28 years. I was in management since I was 20 years old. We — my wife, Lindsey, [and I] — got out of the spotlight of corporate markets, and we figured we would do something on our own. We just opened up early June of this year. Old Boy's Butcher Shop is a butcher shop and deli. We make sandwiches, but we specialize in our certified Angus beef program. ... They're free-range steer instead of quarantined. And they're 100 percent grass-fed. If you're going to do it, you've got to do it right. That's kind of what sticks us out from the rest of the people. Just being around on a commercial basis and knowing what sells, people expect that consistency with quality. That's why we decided to do the prime grades, even with our marinades."



Courtesy photo.

What would you have for your last meal?

Probably a rib-eye steak; it's my favorite steak. It's the flavor. It's your most flavorful steak. It's from one of the best locations of the animal. I love it.

What is your favorite local eatery?

Buckley's in Merrimack. It's the steakhouse with the best-quality meats. I order a rib-eye when I go there, every single time.

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

Keanu Reeves. He is one of the actors in one of my favorite movies. He stars in *The Matrix*. He's very humble. I'm always impressed when people can keep their humility.

What is your favorite cut of meat that you sell?

It's not what we sell; it's who we're selling it to. We carry a lot of things in our store from small areas in New England. We support a lot of locally based products as well. We love seeing people come back. They're not spending a lot of money like they do in other places. We're trying to offer that quality meats at a reasonable price.

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

I see a lot of carnivore diets, which really helps us, people just eating meats. I have clients coming from all the way from Londonderry, Hollis, northern Massachusetts coming up because they do like our grass-fed line.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I love steak, but pizza is my second favorite. Everyone in my house likes their own. I'm a pepperoni type of person. My wife likes Hawaiian, and my son likes nothing on his pizza, just sauce and crust. He's a purist.

As a meat expert, how would you recommend cooking a steak?

There's a couple of ways. A lot of people like to cook with cast iron, which is a high-intensity heat; it pretty much sears the outside of a steak, so it prevents the juices from coming out of it. With a prime grade product the marbling keeps it juicy naturally. We also teach people to use cast iron to broil steaks. That involves the same key factors as grilling outside, despite the weather.

— Compiled by John Fladd 🍷

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 22

experts to craft a charcuterie board. Register at vinethirtytwo.com/charcuterieclasses.

• **Homemade cookies:** There will be a cookie swap at the Rodgers Memorial Library (194 Derry Road, Hudson, 886-6030, rodgerslibrary.org) Saturday, Dec. 21, from 11:30

a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Contribute four dozen (48) of your favorite homemade holiday cookies and take home a cookie assortment. Provide a recipe copy with your cookies. Registration is required. 🍪

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DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Cranberry Margarita

Everything was quiet, mostly.

Very few houses are actually quiet at night. Every time the wind blows, a house will usually flex a little, settling in one direction with a creak or a soft cracking noise. But around 2:30 this morning, everything briefly went completely quiet. If there had been anybody still

awake, the sudden, complete silence might have startled them. That's one of the things science fiction generally messes up on; if you're dealing with a temporal anomaly — and how could you not be, if you're trying to visit more than two billion houses in a night — sound doesn't know how to work under those conditions.

The Old Man came down the chimney, set his bag to one side. He looked at the stockings waiting for him, but out of habit, looked for the traditional milk and cookies. Instead, his eyes fell on a waiting tray table. Laid out carefully, there was a small dish of cocktail peanuts, a cocktail shaker, an ice bucket and a martini glass. The Old Man's eyes sparkled as he used the tongs that Rachel always left for him — always had, since she was a college student — and dropped three ice cubes into the shaker and shook himself a cocktail.

He carefully strained it into the waiting glass, helped himself to a few peanuts for the salt, then with a sigh, took a grateful sip of his margarita, and set to filling the stockings with his unencumbered hand.

Some parents just get it.

Cranberry Margarita

2 ounces Blanco tequila – I like Hornitos



Cranberry Margarita. Photo by John Fladd.

1 ounce fresh squeezed lime juice

¾ ounce homemade cranberry syrup (see below)

Combine all ingredients with ice in a cocktail shaker.

Shake this cocktail brutally, then strain into a coupé glass.

If you have something sweet and syrupy, you can almost certainly use it to make a pretty good margarita. Cranberry syrup takes things one step further, firmly into Delicious territory. Cranberry goes extremely well with lime. Both fruits are puckeringly sour and can stand up to the tequila's assertiveness. The sweetness of the syrup mellows everything out and makes this smooth and very, very drinkable.

Cranberry Syrup Two Ways

Combine equal amounts (by weight) of frozen whole cranberries and white sugar in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat, crush berries, and allow to steep for 30 minutes. Strain and bottle.

or

Combine equal amounts (by volume) of unsweetened cranberry juice and white sugar in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil. Leave on a boil for 10 to 20 seconds to make sure the sugar is completely dissolved. Remove from heat. Allow to cool, then bottle.

Either version will be delicious — like grenadine with a better personality. The whole-fruit version will be a bit thicker, due to the pectin in the berries. The juice version will be a little thinner and clearer. 🍷

Winter Wonderham, a 7.5% ABV Winter Warmer Ale.

Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) has two super-charged seasonal beers on tap: **Escape Velocity 10% Triple IPA**, described on the Spyglass website as “a New England style Triple IPA double dry hopped with Citra, Mosaic, Vic Secret and Azacca Hops,” and **Continuum 10.5% Belgian Abbey Quad** “a Belgian Abbey style quadrupel ale made with Belgian malts, Dark Candi syrup, and Styrian Golding hops.” 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 22

Tree New England IPA at 6.6%.

Pipe Dream Brewing (49 Harvey Road, Unit 4, Londonderry, 404-0751, pipedreambrewingnh.com) is serving **Pumpkin French Toast** pumpkin ale on tap. It has an ABV of 6%, and Pipe Dream's website describes it as “a slightly sweet, bready, pumpkin ale with a cinnamon maple twist.”

The **Rockingham Brewing Co.** (1 Corporate Park Drive, Unit 1, Derry, 216-2324, rockinghambrewing.com) has two festive beers on tap, according to its website: **Snowball**, a 4.2% ABV Belgian Witbier, and



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Crayon, *Home Safe* (self-released)



Lots to unpack from this French producer's upcoming 2025 debut album, the first thing being the fact that I usually can't stomach French music and was surprised to like this stuff, the second being that it's almost painfully art-wonky; if you were at all confused or triggered by the bizarre opening ceremony for the 2024 Olympics, you should stick to something more meat-and-potatoes than this, just trying to help. Toward the latter, the video for the title track is one of the weirdest you'll ever see, combining performance art and ballet in a presentation that, like the cover art, will surely be misinterpreted by unqualified critics as a

shocking glamorization of the KKK (it isn't at all). Artists gotta art, you see, and this guy's been lucky enough to be introduced to and seen by the right people; among other things, he's written platinum hits for French rap artists like Josman. The music itself has haunted house elements, i.e. slow techno exercises that sound like *Heligoland*-era Massive Attack after the guys drank a gallon of Robitussin. It's plenty melodic, and to say it's unapologetically urban would be the understatement of the decade. Perfect stuff for a perfectly broken planet. A —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Victoria Monét, *A Jaguar II Christmas: The Orchestral Arrangements* (RCA Records)



Talk about under the wire; I was sifting through my mailbox for a metal or noise album to review here in order to finish off the week quickly when this one — an actual holiday record! — popped up. If you weren't aware that AOR-R&B was even still being made by anyone, you can make room in your stack of Anita Baker and Toni Braxton albums for Monét, a multiple Grammy winner who worked her way up from the songwriting bullpen to bathe the world in her own brand of expensive-hotel vibe, with hits like the yacht rock-bordering "On My Mama," which gets a bedroom-chill overhaul here, as well as subtle

"12 Days Of Christmas" interpositions. That kind of thing goes on a lot on this record: Monét is a creative soul, well-versed in symphonics; in the appropriately named "Cadillac Christmas" she inserts snatches of "Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy" into a yacht-hip-hop beat while maintaining her understated street cred (don't try that at home; it's a difficult trick). Wonderfully tasteful, this. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Yee-ha, our next album-release Friday is Dec. 20, when people like me, CD reviewers with weekly columns that need to be filled with news of new albums, sit in our glittering snow drifts on The Island Of Misfit Toys, with nothing to talk about at all. There aren't many new CDs that come out this time of year; all the "important" new albums have already come out and we already ~~made fun of them~~ gave them a thorough, professional evaluation, for the edification of you, our faithful readers. And so, like a Charlie In The Box, or a squirt gun that shoots Polaner All-Fruit instead of water, or a toy cowboy who rides an ostrich, I sit alone, in my completely unorganized trash heap of an office, waiting to hear the jingling of sleigh bells, that magical sound that heralds the arrival of Santa Claus, who will, I hope against hope, bring me albums to talk about in this award-winning space. I get so loooooonely this time of year, guys, passing the endless hours, with no albums to critique, trying to ignore the urge to have a Skittles-eating contest with myself or just leave this page blank until tomorrow and go back to binging reruns of *Match Game '78* on the Buzzr channel, wasn't Charles Nelson Reilly a funny fellow? Oh forget it, no one wants a misfit social media-addicted CD reviewer when the music market is oversaturated, good grief, why didn't I stock up on Kleenex, I just hope none of you nice people ever have to — wait! Do you hear that, folks? And look! A bright red shiny nose-sized light, making straight for me! It's —! It's —! It's — SANTA! Wait, Santa threw me something, wrapped in shiny paper and a nice bow! Yow, I can't even believe it, it's a new album, coming out on Dec. 20, for this column! Let's see, I'm so excited, this album's from some band I've never heard of — of course it is — called **Fish in a Birdcage** and it is titled *Mentors*! Well, let me look into this. They're from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, which probably explains why they're putting out an album five days before ChristmaHannaKwanzaa, I don't think they don't have holidays in Canada except for Guillotine Day or whatever it is, could someone text me the Wikipediadeets on that before my hands finish typing this entire column? Wait, no, I get it now, this is an actual band, not a joke YouTube-only hip-hop band like the one I wrote about two years ago, these guys have an actual record contract, with Nettwerk Records, which is literally my favorite record company to receive albums from. What does all this mean? It means they must have been contractually obligated to put out an album before the end of the year or else, you know how it goes! But guess what, this is a good band, judging by the first single, "Badger." It's a stompy tune that's part Strokes, part Billy Squier and part Scottish-ren-faire grog-folk; I'm seriously impressed. Thank you for giving me a holly jolly Christmas, Santa! On, Dasher! On, Whatsyourface!

• Anyway, folks, that's it for the least happy time of the year for us misfit CD reviewers! I'd like to thank the dude who sold me the nice expensive coffee mugs at World Market in Bedford, N.H., Petunia will definitely love them, and furthermore — wait! Look! One of Santa's reindeer left me a present! — No, not that, don't be gross, it's another album! This one's from some British "comedy music" kid who calls himself **ZEDNED**, and it's titled *Do You Think I Give A S—t*. No, seriously, it's an actual album, fam, it's on Spotify and Apple Music and whatnot, so I'm going to listen to the song "Jake Jake Jake," which is probably about ZEDNED himself, because his "real name" is Jake Muscles. Let's see — OK, OK, it's a joke song, with a totally canned trap-and-wub-wub beat, and he's talking about gross sexytime stuff. Do not buy. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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Brightly Shining, by **Ingvild Rishøi** (Grove Press, 192 pages)

It's been 181 years since *A Christmas Carol* was published, and so it's past time for another author to give us a compact, memorable holiday book that becomes as much a part of the season as shopping and eggnog. The Dickens classic was a marvel of brevity, coming in at just about 30,000 words, which is surely one reason it remains popular. No one has time to read, say, Richard Powers in December.

Three years ago, I had hopes for *Small Things Like These*, a slim novel written by the Irish novelist Claire Keegan, which turned up as Oprah Winfrey's book club pick this month even though it was published in 2021. That book (Grove Press, 118 pages) wasn't about Christmas, per se, but is set around Christmastime and has, at the heart of its deeply affecting story, a working-class man who was born to a teenage housekeeper. Furlong never knew who his father was, and yet grows up to be happily married with five daughters and becomes a sort of social justice warrior by accident when he makes a disturbing discovery while delivering coal, a reliable staple of Christmas stories.

Small Things Like These has a Truman Capote "A Christmas Memory" vibe to it, in the telling of Furlong's back story, with passages like this:

"On Christmas morning, when he'd gone down to the drawing room [his mother's employer] occasionally let them share, the fire was already lighted and he'd found three parcels under the tree wrapped in the same green paper: a nailbrush and a bar of soap were wrapped together in one. The second was a hot water bottle ... And from Mrs. Wilson, he'd been given *A Christmas Carol*, an old book with a hard red cover and no pictures, which smelled of mud."

Or maybe that is a *Little Women* vibe. At any rate, there are letters written to Santa, and a Christmas Mass, and an ending with the kind of wild and irrational hope befit-

ting a good Christmas story. *A Christmas Carol* it's not, but it was Dickensian enough that I decided to add the book to my Christmas collection when I finished it last year.

Now Grove Press has published another slim Christmas-themed novel, *Brightly Shining*, by the Norwegian author Ingvild Rishøi (translated into English by Carolina Waight). In Norway, where the book was published in 2021 under the title *Stargate*, the author has been compared to Dickens and also Hans Christian Andersen (who, lest we forget, gave us "The Little Mermaid" before Disney did).

Brightly Shining is the story of a 10-year-old girl (who, in Victorian times, would have been characterized as a waif) and her struggle to maintain hope in seemingly hopeless circumstances. Ronja lives with her 16-year-old sister Melissa, in an impoverished household ostensibly headed by their father, who is addicted to alcohol, has trouble holding down a job, and is usually failing to provide support of any kind for his daughters. Most of the time, there is nothing for the girls to eat but cereal, and there is no mother in the home, although Melissa tries as best as she can to be a mother to her sister.

One day, a caretaker at Ronja's school, who is aware of the situation, points out a flier advertising a job selling Christmas trees, and she takes it home to her father. After at first dismissing it as "a job for country bumpkins," he relents and is hired, giving wings to Ronja's hopes: that there might be enough money for food and gifts and a Christmas tree of their own. Her biggest dream, though, is that the family may one day have a cabin of their own in the woods.

As Ronja, the narrator, recounts: " 'Miracles do happen,' the caretaker used to say.



"Sometimes there just isn't any other way out, and that's when a miracle happens."

But that's not how things transpire. Old patterns repeat, and Melissa takes over the job selling Christmas trees, with Ronja showing up at times just to watch, and eventually getting involved in the operation.

A bully of a boss turns into the story's villain, and Ronja befriends a widowed man living in their building, leading to one of the book's most poignant scenes, at a holiday pageant at Ronja's school. The old man, Aronsen, does what he can to help Ronja, feeding her a real breakfast, ironing a dress for the school pageant and even buying greenery at the Christmas tree lot, but his efforts, and Melissa's, cannot make up for the loss of functioning parents in the child's life, even though, as she says, "I can't not hope. That's just the way my brain is."

As in *Small Things Like This*, *Brightly Shining* attempts to give us the happiest ending possible while being honest about reality, which is to say, it's not really a happy ending at all, especially after all the talk about miracles. Let's just say it's as happy an ending as O'Henry gave us in "The Gift of the Magi," meaning it requires aggressive spin to cast either book as a feel-good Christmas story.

Not to say that both books aren't beautifully crafted — they are. Not to say that they're not memorable — they are. It's just that I've been forever ruined by the last chapter of *A Christmas Carol* and seek that level of merriment in my Christmas reads, which *Brightly Shining* and *Small Things Like These* refuse to supply. God bless them, anyway. **B+** —Jennifer Graham

Books Author events

• **Ty Gagne** will talk about his new book *The Lions of Winter: Survival and Sacrifice on Mount Washington* at Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com) on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m.
 • **Peg Fitzpatrick**, a New Hampshire author and social media expert, will talk about her new book *The Art of Small Business, Social Media* at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on

Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Madison Rene** will talk about her fantasy romance *She Who Chose War* at Barnes & Noble in Manchester (1741 S. Willow St., 668-5557, bn.com) on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m.
History, stories, discussions & lectures
 • **Veterinary Episodes** presented by Charles Devinne on Friday, Jan. 3, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share

series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.
 • **Why Democracy** presented by Dr. Joshua Duclos of St. Paul's School on Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.
 • **Japanese House in New Hampshire** presented by Paul Tuller on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A recep-

tion follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.
 • **Vanished Veterans: An Illustrated Introduction to NH's Civil War Monuments and Memorials** presented by George Morrisson, a Bow resident, on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.
 • **Stories from Producing on Broadway: How Creative Process Works** presented by Michele Steckler on Friday, March 7, from 5 to 6 p.m. at

the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.
Writer events
 • **"Getting into Print: Solving the Mysteries of Publishing,"** presented by Deidre Randall, CEO of Peter E. Randall Publisher, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

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Carry-On (PG-13)

A heretofore-mid TSA agent gets tangled up in a terrorist attack in *Carry-On*, Netflix's attempt at a "Die Hard is a Christmas movie"-style Christmas movie.

It's Christmas Eve and Ethan (Taron Egerton) has just learned that girlfriend Nora (Sofia Carson) is pregnant. For the first time since failing to get into the police academy, he's suddenly motivated to make more of himself at his TSA job at LAX. And lucky him, he gets a chance at working the carry-on bag X-ray machine on a busy Christmas Eve. Unlucky for him, his sudden show of ambition messes with the plans of Jason Bateman (his character is just called "Traveler" on IMDb), who is just running some kind of terrorism operation. He had planned to kidnap Ethan's buddy Jason's (Sinha Walls) family to force Jason to let through a bag carrying some clearly dangerous thing but when Jason gives Ethan a shot at the X-ray, suddenly Ethan is the one getting a mysterious ear bud and having a conversation about not calling the cops. Jason Bateman threatens Ethan's girlfriend and demonstrates his abilities by hurting one of Ethan's coworkers so Ethan feels like he has no choice but to follow his instructions, while also trying his best to find ways to stop Jason Bateman's ultimately convoluted-but-who-cares plan.

Carry-On is goofy and I am here for it! "More silly holiday action" is my special Christmas wish; it's an excellent bit of "goes-with" programming to the holiday rom-coms. Egerton is completely serviceable as a guy forced to step up and be heroic — his abilities are believable enough. Bateman is good fun as a smarmy villain. And Danielle Deadwyler, playing the one cop who knows the score, is a delight; give this woman her own *Reacher*. She also gets to participate in the movie's funnest/dumbest action sequence; it's silly and great. **B** Streaming on Netflix.

That Christmas (PG)

Santa Brian Cox Claus tells us the story of the English town of Wellington-on-Sea during *That Christmas*, a sweet animated tale co-written by Richard Love Actually Curtis.

Kids and their families navigate the days before Christmas with an assortment of concerns. Bernadette McNutt (voice of India Brown), of mid-teen-ish age, is eager to break free from the traditions of the season — from zhuzhing up the school nativity pageant to finding something other than the boring turkey dinner for Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve, she's left to care for her younger sister Eve (voice of Bron-



Carry-On

te Smith) and neighbor kids Teddy (voice of Freddie Spry), Scarlett (voice of Ava Talbot) and Nisha (voice of Kuhu Agarwal) when Bernie and Eve's parents (voices of Rosie Cavaliero and Rhys Darby), Teddy and Scarlett's parents (voice of Alex Macqueen and Lolly Adefope) and Nisha's mom (voice of Sindhu Vee) head to a wedding for the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Sam (voice of Zazie Hays) is worried that her twin sister Charlie (voice of Sienna Sayer) won't get anything from Father Christmas because Sam is certain Charlie is on the naughty list. Sam doesn't fully appreciate that some of Charlie's pranks are meant to help her get together with Danny Williams (voice of Jack Wisniewski), a new kid who is smitten with Sam as well. Danny, when he isn't struggling with his new school, is struggling at home with being mostly alone — his hard-working nurse mom (voice of Jodie Whittaker) is often at her job and he hasn't seen much of his dad since their divorce. When a snow day is called on what would have been the last day of school, Danny winds up spending all of it at the school being one-on-one tutored by the imposing Mrs. Trapper (voice of Fiona Shaw), a teacher who still scares adults she once taught and doesn't like to show how otherwise alone she is.

When a blizzard rolls in on Christmas Eve, all of these townsfolk — plus Light-house Bill (voice of Bill Nighy) and Santa — work together to help the kids have a good Christmas in spite of various sub-optimal circumstances and find joy in community. It's all very good-natured British, very *Call the Midwife* Christmas special but without the horrifying medical emergencies.

My younger kids were occasionally bored with some of the ramp up to the big day and its blizzard but the last 60 percent or so of the movie held their attention. And it has a nice mix of kid wackiness, silliness involving a flock of turkeys that runs loose

and just a touch of snark to help balance out some truly heartwarming Christmas-y-ness. **B+** Streaming on Netflix.

Christmas Eve in Miller's Point (PG-13)

A big, largely-Italian-American family comes together on Christmas Eve for a night of food, light bickering, kid antics and general merriment in *Christmas Eve in Miller's Point*.

Someone on Bluesky described this movie as feeling like if Robert Altman made a holiday movie and that is a pretty clean way to explain what you're getting here. A group of adult siblings and others — cousins, and/or "cousins" in the sense of people who are part of a big family even if it's not entirely clear how — gather at the home where they grew up, with all of their children, ranging in age from small to adult themselves. The mother (Mary Reistetter) still lives in the house with one of the siblings — who now wants to sell the house and put her in a facility that can better care for her. We get hints at how far along this plan is throughout the movie, putting a general sense over the movie (one that we in the audience might be more aware of than the characters all are) that this could be the last Christmas Eve of this kind for this family.

This is, however, kind of background. Mostly we are just mingling, poking in on conversations between different relatives. We get to the party with Kathleen (Maria Dizzia) and her teenage daughter Emily (Matilda Fleming), her younger son and her husband Lenny (Ben Shenkman). We see some of Kathleen complaining about her prickly relationship with Emily and some of Emily's "eyeroll, Mom" at Kathleen and at times follow Emily when she and other cousins sneak out and drive around. They meet up with other kids, hang out at a diner, hang out at a place where teens go to make out, try to convince some-

one to sell them booze. Nothing "happens" in the big-event sense. We get family members reliving annual traditions, we get spreads of food and a big meal, we get teens teen-ing around. We are just spending Christmas Eve with them and experiencing the overheated togetherness of a joyful/obligatory family gathering. Solid performances (including by Francesca Scorsese, Sawyer Spielberg — yes, the kids of that Scorsese and that Spielberg — and Elsie Fisher of *Eighth Grade* fame) make this a solid hang movie. **B** Streaming on AMC+ and available for rent or purchase.

Red One (PG-13)

Santa Claus is kidnapped and Dwayne Johnson and Chris Evans have to save Christmas in *Red One*, the unnecessarily CGI-heavy, grimly quippy, unfun holiday action adventure.

Nick a.k.a. Red a.k.a. Santa Claus (J.K. Simmons, continuing this season's widely commented on "ripped and/or hot Santa" trend) is kidnapped. An investigation by Callum Drift (Johnson), head of security, and Zoe (Lucy Liu), head of some organization that protects mythological creatures, leads them to Jack O'Malley (Evans), a con artist and hacker. He was paid to sneak into a government office and find the location of what he was told was a weapons test. He didn't realize that what he was actually tracking was the location of Santa's cloaked North Pole metropolis. Jack has long been a "no beliefs, no loyalty" guy and agrees to help Callum hunt down his employer (for money).

Eventually, Santa's brother Krampus (Kristofer Hivju) and a Christmas witch (a real Icelandic thing, according to Wikipedia) called Gryla (Kieran Shipka) are in the mix. Also, Jack finds that the investigation is getting in his way of being even a C-minus dad to his young teen son Dylan (Wesley Kimmel). Mary Elizabeth Ellis plays Dylan's mom and mostly she just plays a person who delivers exposition on what a crummy parent Jack has been. I mention this because she is often a really fun actress, as in her recent role playing Ted Danson's daughter on the Netflix series *A Man on the Inside*, which is a truly funny, sweet show about aging, life phases, family relationships and more and you could watch about half the season in the time it takes to watch this movie, which I think is a better use of your two hours.

Here, we get a chase through the streets of the North Pole, a Santa's workshop staffed by penguins and bears, magic portals and other Santa lore stuff that probably could be fun but here just feels like mid-quality CGI for the sake of CGI. This

particularly noticeable as Krampus, a character that is given a Hulky-Thanosy outsized demonic body, which actually gets in the way of what could have been a personable performance by Hivju, who you may remember as Tormund Giantsbane on *Game of Thrones*. He is a fun actor playing a fun character but it's so buried in non-sense that you don't get to get a real sense of him or his relationship with Santa.

This movie feels very much "Marvel but Christmas" in the worst sense of that description (unlike *The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special*, an actual Marvel holiday product which is goofy and delightful and is available on Disney+). It also straddles a weird line of being more violent and creature-scary than you'd want your kid movie to be but doesn't offer much for adults. C-

In theaters and streaming on Prime Video.

Hot Frosty (TV-PG)

A sad widow falls in love with a ripped snowman in *Hot Frosty*, the delightfully bonkers but not winky holiday rom-com from Netflix.

Kathy Barrett (Lacey Chabert), who runs the diner in downtown Hope Springs, is mourning the loss of her husband and doesn't have the mental energy for things like fixing her house's many repair issues or looking for new romance. Her friend at the local consignment store gives her a good-luck red scarf to encourage her to get back out there. But sad Kathy just ends up putting the scarf on a snowman in the town square, one who has a well-chiseled set of abs. Later that night — through the Magic of Christmas!, probably — the snowman becomes a human, though one with a very cold resting temperature and a tendency to sweat profusely when exposed to even minor warmth. Jack (Dustin Milligan, Josh the podcaster from the excellent *Rutherford Falls*), as this "man" is eventually called, isn't sure about much — like, if he can melt or how clothes work or how eating works — but he is certain he is very fond of Kathy.

Not exactly sure what Jack's deal is, Kathy just sort of goes with the whole "I used to be a snowman" thing and lets Jack crash at her house, in part to hide him from the sheriff (Craig Robinson). When Jack came alive, he accidentally streaked in front of an older couple, broke a window in the consignment store and took some coveralls — a crime spree the sheriff and his deputy (Joe Lo Trugilo) just can't countenance.

There are a lot of little goofy moments in and aspects of this movie that are played perfectly straight in a way that made me truly enjoy this bit of holiday fluff: Jack excitedly telling the other (non-alive) snowmen in the town square that may-

be "it could happen" for them too. Craig Robinson's increasingly Inspector Javert-like obsession with finding the man who crimed up his one-street town. Joe Lo Trugilo, still basically *Brooklyn Nine-Nine's* Charles Boyle, answering "how does some soup sound?" literally. Lacy Chabert never once winking at the audience. Dustin Milligan giving "beautiful dummy" without playing his character as too witless. Either you're going to buy into "lady falls for ripped snowman" or you can't. But if you do, you'll be rewarded by this movie that has fun with, without making fun of, its silly premise. **B Streaming on Netflix.**

The Merry Gentlemen (PG)

Chad Michael Murray PG-ily *The Full Montys* ("full" in this case being "shirtless in jeans, sometimes Speedos") to save Britt Robertson's family's nightclub in *The Merry Gentlemen*.

After being fired from her Rockettes-like Broadway show in New York City, Ashley (Robertson) returns to her hometown to find that her parents (Michael Gross and Beth Broderick) are behind on their rent for their nightclub, the Rhythm Room — which is also not exactly mobbed with customers. Ashley comes up with an idea to quickly earn the \$30K her parents owe and save their business: a male revue of sexy men sexy dancing. She enlists/enforces Luke (Murray), the club's volunteer handyman who is also a woodworking artisan, to join along with a few other guys. Using her dancer skills, she helps teach the boys routines that bring in the crowds of local ladies, politely whooping it up from their seats as the men enchant them from the stage only, no touching.

This is a totally solid and watchable cast and the premise had the promise of some *Hot Frosty* fun, but this movie is missing the daffiness that made that movie such a treat. It is also, like many of this genre of movie, quite sexless — a thing that just is what it is for these children-of-Hallmark but which really sticks out with this movie's premise. Also, despite its just under 90-minute runtime, the movie drags a bit and feels like it would be best enjoyed as a thing on in the background while you're doing something else. **C+ Streaming on Netflix.**

The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland (7+)

Santa Claus attempts to make a delivery to Wonderland and runs into the very anti-Christmas Queen of Hearts in *The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland*, a prettily-animated sweetness-with-a-hint-of-tart animated

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adaptation of the book by Carys Bexington and illustrated by Kate Hindley.

Just as he's about to set out on Christmas Eve, Santa Claus (voice of Gerard Butler) gets a last-minute letter from a young princess in Wonderland asking for a Bander-snatch. He decides to rework his flight plan to make a little stop in Wonderland — over the objection of the skeptical reindeer — but, Wonderland being Wonderland, he and the reindeer and an elf who tagged along are quickly waylaid in their task. In addition to mazes with rooms that seem to defy physics and potions that make you big or small, Santa and company find their present-delivering task made harder by the Queen of Hearts (voice of Emilia Clarke), who *hates* Christmas and every tinsel and pudding and (because this is the United Kingdom) Christmas cracker that reminds her of the holiday.

Also because it's the U.K., the movie has nice notes of acid through all the holiday sweetness — the reindeer who are a bit cynical office workers for a somewhat scatterbrained boss, the silliness of the Wonderland characters like the March Hare (voice of Asim Chaudhry) and the Mad Hatter (Mawaan Rizwan), the elf band that pops up everywhere to add mood music to scenes. Clark makes for a fun mad Queen and Gerard Butler is a surprising Santa choice but he works. And throughout the movie has lovely storybook animation that adds notes of humor to the full-color prettiness. **B+** *Streaming on Amazon Prime Video.*

Dear Santa (PG-13)

An 11-year-old with a tendency toward misspelling accidentally sends his letter with his fondest wish to Satan in *Dear Santa*.

Liam (Robert Timothy Smith) is having a hard time with life — he's not really fitting in at his new school, his parents are constantly fighting and the family is still struggling with a recent tragedy. He does have a good friend, Gibby (Jaden Carson Baker), and a crush — Emma (Kai Cech), who is nice but who Liam can't figure out how to be normal around. He writes to Santa, really just because the ritual gives his mom a bit of cheer, but due to some spell-binding difficulties it's addressed "To: Satan, North Lope" and is received in the hot place by Jack Black. Tickled that a kid has written to him, Satan appears, all devil horns and stinkiness, to grant Liam's wishes. It takes Liam a bit to realize he's dealing with Old Nick, not Saint Nick, but eventually he learns the terms of the deal: he makes three wishes, the devil gets his soul. No, thank you, Liam says. But without realizing who he was dealing with, he already made one



The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland

wish — for Emma to give him a chance. The wish is a pretty deluxe package deal — VIP tickets to a Post Malone concert, with sweet transportation and even a ticket for Gibby. But Liam is loath to make another wish and lose his soul.

Dear Santa is a bit of a Farrelly Brothers joint — Bobby directs, Peter has a screenplay co-writing credit and both have producer credits. Though this movie is PG-13, it has moments of R-rated-seeming comedy that are more in line with their early R movies than a more family-friendly comedy. The movie also has some real lesser-quality Disney-sitcom vibes — the kids and the material are largely not a good fit. The young actors oftentimes can not sell the comedy they're given and/or aren't given comedy that they can make work, leading to some very tinny, artificial scenes. Add in yikes-some acting by Brienne Howey and Hayes MacArthur as Liam's parents, and this feels more toss-off TV movie than the Farrelly Brothers presence and Jack Black's leading role would suggest. The movie's main problem, I think, is that it's not solidly a family comedy or solidly a *Bad Santa*-esque R-rated comedy. Either could have worked but this middle way leaves the movie mushy and underbaked. **C-** *Streaming on Paramount+ and available for rent or purchase.*

Nutcrackers (PG-13)

Businessman Ben Stiller finds himself caring for his four semi-feral nephews in the mournful but sweet *Nutcrackers*.

Michael (Stiller) feels like a stock 1980s comedy character, with his "Big Presentation" deadline looming and his big-city ways and his inability to cope without wi-fi (which would have been, what, a fax machine in a 1980s movie?). When his sister and her husband died, he sent an Edible Arrangement to the funeral for his four young-teen-through-young-elementary-age nephews (Homer Janson, Arlo Janson, Ulysses Janson and Atlas Janson). Now he is headed to their rural working

family farm to sign some papers and get them adopted or something — it's not clear what he thinks is happening with the kids and the farm but "not it" is very clearly his position. Social worker Gretchen (Linda Cardellini) tells him that she doesn't have a family willing to take all four boys yet and Michael needs to stick around to care for them for what he clearly thinks will be more days than weeks. With their long hair, their home-schooled farm-focused lives and their general brotheriness, the Kicklighter boys are known as sort of a handful. Their mom/Michael's sister was, however, beloved in the town for her dance studio. Eventually, Michael hits on the idea of them putting on a kid-penned variation on the *Nutcracker* to show everyone how adorable and adoptable the boys are.

Stiller here is fine — the right amount of prickly for a guy who doesn't have child experience and had been estranged from his sister but not cartoonishly heartless. But it's the Janson boys, real-life brothers, who give the movie heart. They play the boy-ness of their characters — a constant whirl of wrestling, bad decisions, general messiness, loyalty and surprising moments of kindness — in a way that feels genuine and will be instantly recognizable to anybody who has parented or taught or otherwise attempted to corral more than one boy. **B-** *Streaming on Hulu.*

Mary (TV-14)

The Christmas story is the focus of *Mary*, a biography of the early years of Jesus' mom.

The standard nativity pageant story is not generally feature-length so this movie starts with the difficulties Mary's parents Joachim (Ori Pfeffer) and Anne (Hilla Vidor) have conceiving in 18 B.C. Nazareth. Blue-robed Archangel Gabriel (Dudley O'Shaughnessy) shows up to Joachim and Anne to tell them that God will give them a daughter, with conditions. Years later, their daughter Mary (Mila Harris) is elementary-aged and when Gabriel shows up again mom and dad know it's time to take Mary to the temple where she will serve God, as they've agreed. Mary spends years at the temple (long enough to age up into actress Noa Cohen), mostly doing house-keeping stuff with a similarly aged group of girls and under the mentorship of Anna (Susan Brown), who feels a bit like she's on loan from the Bene Gesserit. One day, stoneworker Joseph (Ido Tako), with a little heavenly nudging, sees Mary doing the laundry at a nearby river. Their interaction includes only Mary telling him the name of her father and also calling him crazy for wading into the river to get her shawl. But Joseph decides she's the one for him and asks Joachim for her hand in mar-

riage. Mary's parents aren't sure if he mentions getting some directions from the blue-robed guy and they give him the thumbs up. Mary is more-or-less OK with the engagement but then she gets her own visit from Gabriel and is told that she is "with child." The wider community is really jerky about Mary's single mom-to-be status and Joseph has to decide what he wants to do about it.

Extremely meanwhile, King Herod (Anthony Hopkins, very "angry Odin" but bigger and louder and more bonkers) is busy restoring the temple, murdering his wife, acting twitchy about his place in the Roman power structure and just generally being a pretty unhinged guy. When he crosses paths with Mary, he has a sort of prophetic-vision-reaction, leading his main bodyguard (Gudmundur Thorvaldsson) to get all obsessed with hunting down this random teen who gave the stink-eye to his boss.

I enjoy a good Bible story movie, particularly if the movie takes a Ridley-Scott-with-the-*Gladiator*-movies "sure, whatever" approach to historical accuracy and has at least one character who decides to go full Shakespeare-at-top-volume theatrical. This movie has all of those things: the costuming here feels more galaxy far, far away than Earth a long, long time ago; Anthony Hopkins goes All In as Herod, and I do not remember the Bible having as many action scenes for Mary and Joseph as we see here. Are Mary's eyebrows way too on point for a pregnant lady in antiquity? Yes, but that doesn't mean that it isn't a fun watch. **B-** *Streaming on Netflix.*

An Almost Christmas Story (PG)

A young owl ends up in the Christmas Tree in Rockefeller Center in *An Almost Christmas Story*, a visually lovely animated movie.

According to Wikipedia, this is actually computer-generated animation but the visuals suggest paper craft (cars and buildings that seem to be made of cardboard, puffs of steam that look drawn on paper) and characters with a wooden puppet or papier mache look. Their movements suggest stop-motion animation and puppetry — it's all very well done and helps give a kind of tactile warmth to the story.

Little owl Moon (voice of Cary Christopher) does not, as his father, Papa (voice of Jim Gaffigan), tells him, stay put while his father flies off to look for shelter and instead flies out to look for sticks to fix the family nest. A hawk chases Moon, who falls and hurts his wing, and Papa hurries Moon into a random tree and says to wait for him. Before Papa can get back, though,

The tree is cut down and winds up at Rockefeller Center, decorated for Christmas and sitting next to the ice rink. When Moon ventures out of the tree, he winds up falling into Luna (voice of Estella Madrigal) a young girl with a prosthetic leg attempting to relearn to ice skate. After some adventures through the subway while being chased by pigeons (voices of Mamoudou Athie, Philip Rosenthal and Natasha Lyonne) who think Moon is trying to steal

their garbage food, Moon and Luna end up wandering around, each lost and trying to seek their family.

The movie (which clocks in at 21 minutes) is a celebration of human (and animal) kindness. Its real highlights are the beautiful animation style and the very fun and fitting voice work, with standouts being Lyonne and John C. Reilly as a narrator of sorts. **B+** Streaming on Disney+. 🍷

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

Park Theatre 19 Main St., Jaf-
frey, theparktheatre.org

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

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

Smitty's Cinema 630 W. Main
St., Tilton, 286-3275, smittyscinema.com

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

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

- **The Polar Express** (G, 2004) will screen at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) Thursday, Dec. 19, 12:45, 4 & 5:30 p.m..
- **Wicked** (PG, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.com, Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3:30 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 20, through Monday, Dec. 23, at noon, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 24, at noon and 3:45 p.m.; Wednesday; Dec. 25, at 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 26, at noon, 3:45 & 7 p.m.
- **Mufasa: The Lion King** (PG, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 22, at 12:30, 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 21, at 12:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 23, at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 3:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 26, at 12:30, 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.
- **A Christmas Story** (PG, 1983) will screen on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. at The Flying Monkey (39 S. Main St. in Plymouth; flyingmonkeynh.com).
- **National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation** (PG-13, 1989) will screen at a 21+ Ugly Christmas Sweater party with prizes for ugly sweaters

at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m.

- **Lost Nation** (NR, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, Dec. 20, through Monday, Dec. 23, at 1:15, 4 & 6:46 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 1:15 & 4 p.m.
- **Elf** The Strand (20 Third St., Dover, 343-1899, thestranddover.com) will screen *Elf* (PG, 2003) as part of its annual Christmas Break on a Budget event, which will also include cookie decorating, snowflake making, paper chain making and a storytime starting at noon on Saturday, Dec. 21. Admission costs \$20 for a family (up to four people) or \$8 per person.
- **It's a Wonderful Life** (1946) will screen Saturday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. at The Flying Monkey (39 S. Main St. in Plymouth; flyingmonkeynh.com).
- **A broadcast of The Royal Ballet's The Nutcracker** will screen on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 3 p.m. at O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington and Monday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m. at Regal Fox Run. See fathom events.com.
- **Babygirl** (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 4 & 6:45 p.m. and Thursday, Dec. 26, at 1:15, 4 & 6:45 p.m.
- **Wicked Sing-Along** (PG, 2024) will screen at Chunky's in Manchester on Thursday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 2, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets online cost \$8.99 plus fees.

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Light up the season

LaBelle Winery's lights display glows with holiday cheer

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Celebration time:** Time again for the annual **Buzz Ball**, with the one constant being Greg & the Morning Buzz offering laughs and pickup band The Velvet Elves providing the soundtrack. From that point on anything can happen, with special guest musicians, comedians and actors teaming up for holiday-themed entertainment benefiting the Lend a Helping Can charity. Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$58.75 at ccanh.com.

• **Country holiday:** There are many seasonal events on tap this week, including **Sara Evans**; her *21 Days of Christmas* is in town. The show includes reverent renditions of standards like a "Silent Night" that one critic recently enthused "could rattle the stained glass in just about any church." Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua, \$59 and up at etix.com.

• **Brassy bash:** Continuing the holiday mood is dinner and dancing with music from the **NH Jazz Orchestra**. Cocktails will be served at six, with dinner starting a half hour later. Then the Skip Poole-led big band takes over for an evening of *Swingin' Yuletide* sounds played by musicians who've worked with stars like Mel Tormé, Rosemary Clooney and Johnny Mathis. Saturday, Dec. 21, 6 p.m., Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House, 393 Route 101, Bedford, \$30 at eventbrite.com.

• **Funny guy:** Enjoy standup comedy in a venue designed for it as **Kyle Crawford** holds forth. A fixture on the regional scene for over 15 years, Crawford has performed with national stars Jim Florentine, Jim Norton and Gary Gulman. He was a first runner-up in New Hampshire's *Last Comic Standing*, and was also twice featured on Comcast's *Comedy Spotlight*. Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m., Headliners at The Doubletree, 700 Elm St., Manchester, \$20 at headlinersnh.com.

• **So good, so good:** A Neil Diamond tribute act led by singer Michael Anthony, **Tru Diamond** performs an afternoon holiday concert at an area winery. The show will also include hits like "Cracklin' Rosie," "Song Sung Blue" and the Red Sox mid-inning anthem "Sweet Caroline." The five-piece band is considered one of New England's best at channeling the Diamond sound. Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m., LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst, \$15 and up at labellewinery.com.

Created during the pandemic as a way to provide socially distanced family fun, LaBelle Lights enters its fourth year bigger and better. Newly added is The Treehouse, a big glowing box that looks like twisted birch branches made of spun sugar. It's a beacon for the Derry location of LaBelle Winery and a great Instagram photo spot that's located right at the holiday trail's start.

Along with other new display pieces like the caterpillar-shaped Blizzard Bend and more glowing evergreens dotting the Forest of Trees are new events and attractions to carry the holiday spirit into the new year. Perennial favorites like the twinkling giant teddy bear and ornament-shaped Proposal Ball still remain.

There are expanded food options. "People like to eat along the way," Michelle Thornton, the winery's Marketing Director, said recently. "We have Santa's Snack Shack, which is grab and go, and LaBelle Market, which looks like a French market all decorated for Christmas. They have cookies that are the size of a human head, I mean, they're huge."

Themes change weekly, and as Christmas passes the soundtrack moves from "Here Comes Santa Claus" to "Sleigh Ride" and "Winter Wonderland." Upcoming is Crazy Holiday Hats week, where guests are encouraged to show off wild, wacky and holiday-appropriate headgear.

Frozen Costume Week happens Dec. 26 through Dec. 29 and includes a ticketed event on the first day. Ice Princess Party is a dress-up affair for youngsters that offers a dance party with cocoa and characters such as Snow Sister and Ice Boy, live story time and a puppet show. A meet and greet at the end provides ample photo opportunities.

A stroll through the glowing displays after is included with the \$44 ticket (\$34 for ages 2 through 10). "What's so fun about this,"



Bubble Forest. Photo courtesy of LaBelle Lights.

Thornton said, "is after kids are done engaging with characters, they can go right over to LaBelle Lights and walk through it in their costumes."

Grown-ups will enjoy Flannel Week, which starts on New Year's Eve, followed by '80s Ski Week with retro winter gear encouraged. The final week of the attraction has WinterFest, celebrating all things related to the season, before LaBelle staff takes down everything and begins planning for next time.

Winery founder Amy LaBelle came up with the idea of transforming their golf course for winter, and nurtures it like it's her own Disney World. "That's Amy ... anything that brings joy and makes memories, those things are part of her personal mantra," Thornton said. "When she presented it to our leadership team, we all went, sure, we can do that, and then we had to figure out how, [but] we're really good at taking a concept and bringing it to life."

Thornton mentioned that families on a budget should be aware of Twinkle Tuesday. "That's half price for everyone," she said. "That was also Amy's idea; she wanted it to be affordable for everyone. If someone

was concerned about pricing for any reason, we created a whole night for them that's the same exact experience — but it's half price."

Anyone looking to extend the experience can reserve an age-specific swag bag while booking tickets, but they're quite popular. "They sell out," Thornton said. "We're making them constantly." For the kiddos, the canvas tote bag has a light-up bulb necklace and holiday wand along with light-enhancing 3D glasses. Adults get a logoed winter beanie and a set of hand warmers, a glowing holiday ornament and a \$5 market voucher.

For a few more days, attendees can also book a Santa Photo Experience. "Instead of getting your photo at the mall, you can get it in this environment, which is probably a lot less crazy," Thornton said. "It's very festive ... you're seeing Santa and then the kids get to let loose and go through the lights."

LaBelle Lights

When: Through Jan. 19, multiple times
Where: LaBelle Winery, 14 Route 111, Derr
Tickets: \$8 and up at labellewinery.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

- **Wednesday** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, Manchester, find them on Facebook, 9 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Laugh Attic at Strange Brew, Manchester, strangebrewtaavern.net, 8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday** Murphy's Taproom, Manchester, Murphystaproom.com, 8 p.m.

Events

- **Jackie Fabulous** Music Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, themusichall.org, Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.
- **Queen City Improv** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatres.org, Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.
- **The Calamari Sisters** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatres.org, Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.
- **Rodney Norman** McCue's, Portsmouth,

mccuescomedyclub.com,

- Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
- **Chris Tabb** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Dec. 21, 8 p.m.
- **Kyle Crawford** Headliners, Manchester, headliners.com, Saturday, Dec. 21, 8:30 p.m.
- **Justin McKinney** Music Hall, Portsmouth, themusichall.org, Thursday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 28
- **Bob Marley** Rochester Opera House, rochesterop-

erahouse.com, Thursday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

- **Adam Wade** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org, Saturday, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m.
- **Frank Santos Jr.** BNH Stage, Concord, ccanh.com, Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.
- **Annie Powell** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m.
- **Ben Pratt** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Sunday, Dec. 29, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Justin McKinney

• **Joe Gatto** Chubb Theatre, Concord, ccanh.com, Monday, Dec. 30, 7 p.m.

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

Amherst
LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101, 672-9898

Auburn
Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Bedford
Copper Door 15 Leavy Dr., 488-2677

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

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

Bristol
Kathleen's Irish Pub 90 Lake St., 744-6336

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

Feathered Friend 231

S. Main St., 715-2347

The Forum Pub 15 Village St., 565-3100

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669

Lithermans 126B Hall St., 219-0784

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

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

Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811

Deerfield
The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374

Derry
Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946

Dover
Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240

Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390

Epping
Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225

Epsom
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027

Gilford
Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230

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

L Street Tavern 603 L St., 967-4777

Smuttynose Brewing
105 Towle Farm Road

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

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

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

Hudson
The Bar 2B Burnham Road

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

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

Jaffrey
Park Theatre 19 Main St., 532-9300

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia
Defiant Records &

Craft Beer 609 Main St., 527-8310

Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

High Octane Saloon
1072 Watson Road, 527-8116

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

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

Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

Manchester
Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545

Bonfire 950 Elm St., 663-7678

Bookery 844 Elm St., 836-6600

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925

Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022

The Goat 50 Old Granite St.

Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789

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

Keys Piano Bar & Grill 1087 Elm St., 836-7796

Olympus Pizza 506 Valley St., 644-5559

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

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

Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246

Shopper's Pub & Eatery 18 Lake Ave., 232-5252

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

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

Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292

Meredith
Giuseppe's 312 DW Highway, 279-3313

Twin Barns Brewing 194 DW Highway, 279-0876

Merrimack
Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022

Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479

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

Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979

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

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

Fody's Tavern 9 Clin-

ton St., 577-9015

San Francisco Kitchen
133 Main St., 886-8833

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

Pembroke
Cavern Sports Bar 351 Pembroke St., 485-7777

Pembroke City Limits
134 Main St., 210-2409, pembrokecitylimits.com

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

Pittsfield
Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216-2162

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

The Goat 142 Congress St., 590-4628

Grill 28 Pease Golf Course, 200 Grafton Road, 766-6466

Mojo's West End Tav-

Thursday, Dec. 19

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

Bedford
Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

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

Dover
Auspicious Brew: amiright?, Wooll, Kill-Kennie, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Jonny Friday, 7 p.m.

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

Gilford
Patrick's Pub: Don Severance, 6 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Tom Boisse, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Smuttynose: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

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

Laconia
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.
High Octane Saloon: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: 603's, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Bookery: live piano music, 5-7

p.m.
Fratello's: Pat Foley, 5:30 p.m.

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

Merrimack
Homestead: John Chouinard, 5:30 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Stephen Decuire, 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.

Pembroke
Cavern Sports Bar: Lisa Guyer, 6 p.m.
PCL: Badger's Drift, 7 p.m.

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

Salem
Copper Door: Jon Paul Royer, 7 p.m.
Dreo: Dave Zangri, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20

Alton Bay
Foster's Tavern: Mikey G, 6 p.m.

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

Bristol
Kathleen's: Irish Sessiuon, 7 p.m.

Concord
The Forum Pub: Eric Impallimoni, 8 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Queeraoke w/ Lezhang Seacoast, 8 p.m.
Revo Casino: The Wheel of Awesome, 9 p.m.

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

Gilford
Patrick's Pub: Holy Cow music bingo, 7 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Joe Leary, 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@hippopress.com.



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ern 95 Brewery Lane, 436-6656
 Par28 23 S. Broadway, 458-7078
 Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186
 Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033
 Dreo 254 N. Broadway

Sayde's Bar & Grill 136 Cluff Crossing Road, 890-1032
 Somersworth Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421
 Warner The Local 15 E. Main St., 456-3333

Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030
 Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581
 Oddball Brewing 6

Hampton
 CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.
 L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
 Wally's: Pop Daddy, 9 p.m.
 Whym: Ralph Allen, 6:30 p.m.

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

Jaffrey
 Park Theatre: Scarlett Castiglioni, 6 p.m.; Granite State Ringers, 7 p.m.

Kingston
 Saddle Up Saloon: open line dancing, 7 p.m.

Laconia
 Defiant Records: Mike Loughlin, 6 p.m.
 Fratello's: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.

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

Londonderry
 Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.
 Stumble Inn: Swipe Right Duo, 8 p.m.

Manchester
 Backyard Brewery: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
 Bonfire: FatBunny, 9 p.m.
 Derryfield: Small Town Stranded, 8 p.m.
 The Foundry: Danny McCarthy, 6 p.m.
 Fratello's: Kat Ivy, 6 p.m.

The Goat: Nate Ramos Band, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: open mic, 5:30 p.m.
Olympus Pizza: Chris Perkins, 7 p.m.
Revo Casino: Cox karaoke, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: Steven H. Scott, Faith Ann, 8 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Johnny Friday, 8 p.m.

Meredith
 Giuseppe's: Michael Bourgeois, 5:45 p.m.
 Twin Barns: Ryan Williamson, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
 Homestead: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.

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

Moultonborough
 Buckey's: Eric & Cliff, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua
 Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
 SFK: Tyler Levs, 6:30 p.m.

Pembroke
 Pembroke City Limits: Divergent Strings with John Zevos, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Second Wind, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth
 Gas Light: Jason Michelson, 9:30 p.m.
 The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
 Grill 28: Dani Sven, 6 p.m.
 Mojo's: Dave Maclean, 6 p.m.
 Press Room: The Rock Dwellers & Rigometrics, 8 p.m.

Salem
 Sayde's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Seabrook
 Red's: Max Sullivan, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21
Alton Bay
 Foster's Tavern: Henry LaLiberte, 6 p.m.

Bedford
 Murphy's: Bella Perrotta, 6 p.m.

Bow
 Chen Yang Li: Ken Budka, 7 p.m.

Concord
 BNH: Heather Pierson Trio, 2 p.m. & 7p.m.
 Eagle Square Farmers Market: Brad Myrick 9 a.m.
 Feathered Friend Brewing: live music, 6 p.m.
 The Forum Pub: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.; Mikey G, 8 p.m.

Contoocook
 Contoocook Cider Co.: Temple Mountain, 1 p.m.

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Contoocook Farmers Market: Brad Myrick, 9 a.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: The Amanda Dane Band, The Jerritones, Andy Klosenski, 8 p.m.
Revo Casino: The Dirty Taps, 9 p.m.

Epping

Telly's: 21st & 1st, 8 p.m.

Gilford

Patrick's Pub: Travis Cote, 6 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Stephen Decurie, 6 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Whym: Dave Zangri, 6 p.m.

Hillsborough

Main Street Bar and Grille:

Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Slap Back, 8:30 p.m.

Jaffrey

Park Theatre: kazoo caroling, noon; Robert Black, 7:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Punch Drunk Revival, 8 p.m.

Laconia

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

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: All That 90's, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Maddi Ryan, 7 p.m.

Bookery: The Ukeladies, 3:30 p.m.
Derryfield: Ugly Sweater Party, 8:30 p.m.

Foundry: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

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

The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: Alli Beaudry, 4 p.m.

Keys: dueling pianos, 8 p.m.

Shaskeen: Emo Night, 9 p.m.

Strange Brew: Hi-Fi Sound, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Bob Kroepel, 5:45 p.m.

Twin Barns: Andrew Geano, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Johnny Angel, 7:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: Barrel House Saints, 8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Joe McDonald, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Country Don, 2 p.m.; Llava Lama, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Andrea Paquin, 9:30 p.m.

Press Room: Say ZuZu, 3 p.m.; The White Belts, 9 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Jodee Frawlee, 8:30 p.m.
Par28: DJ Styles, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Suncook

Oddball Brewing: Rebecca Turmel, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Bedford

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Ryan Williamson, 1 p.m.

Goffstown

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

Hampton

CR's: John Chouinard, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Dave Ayotte & John Paul, 4 p.m.

Jaffrey

Park Theatre: Mr. & Mrs. Fez-

zigue's player Piano, 2 p.m.

Laconia

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

Manchester

Bonfire: free line dancing, 7 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Jetti, 10 a.m.; James Stark, 9 p.m.

Murphy's: live music, 3 p.m.

Shopper's Pub: Jordan Quinn, 11:30 a.m.

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

Meredith

Giuseppe's: open stage w/ Lou Porrazzo, 5:45 p.m.

Milford

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

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Christ-mas with Friends Show w/ Jor-

LAUGH WITH KYLE



By day, **Kyle Crawford** is a mild-mannered blue-collar employee. At night, however, his funny side comes out. The comedian has toured throughout the country, played Vegas and appeared on the Anthony Cumia Show and Comcast Comedy Spotlight. Don't miss his show at Headliners (DoubleTree By Hilton, 700 Elm St., Manchester, headlinersnh.com) on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

deSol



Described as "a multicultural brotherhood from Asbury Park, N.J., whose music mixes rock hooks with fiery Latin rhythms sung in English, Spanish & 'Spanglish,'" **deSol** will play the BNH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$30.75 for general admission and \$43.75 for the reserved balcony. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Trivia

Trivia events

• 21+ Classic Christmas Movie
 Trivia with Heather at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Weekly trivia

• Thursday trivia with Game Time Trivia at Mitchell BBQ (50 N. Main St., Rochester, 332-2537, mitchellhillbbq.com) at 6 p.m.
• Thursday trivia with ABC Trivia at Oddball Brewing (6 Glass St., Suncook, 210-5654, oddballbrewingnh.com) at 6 p.m.
• Thursday trivia at Reed's North (2 E. Main St., 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., Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
• Thursday trivia with Geeks Who Drink at the Barley House (132 N. Main St., Concord, thebarleyhouse.com) at 7 p.m.
• Thursday trivia with Game

Time Trivia at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 DW Highway, 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, 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 Night with Bill Seney at Bonfire Restaurant & Country Bar (950 Elm St., Manchester, bonfiremanch.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.,



It's A Wonderful Life

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 DW Highway, 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 Trivia Night with Bill Seney at Renegade's Pub (103 Nashua Road, Londonderry, renegadespub.com) at 7 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 Night with Bill Seney at Shoppers Pub + Eatery (18 Lake Ave., Manchester, shoppersmht.com) at 7 p.m.
• Tuesday trivia at the Forum Pub (15 Village St., Concord, 552-0137), at 8 p.m.
• Tuesday trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
• Tuesday Geeks Who Drink trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535,

thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
• Wednesday trivia at Bert's Beers (545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992, bertsnh.com) at 6 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 Lithermans (126 Hall St., Concord, lithermans.beer) at 6 p.m.
• Wednesday trivia at Otto (33 Water St., Exeter, 810-6886) 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 Talespinner Brewery (57 Factory St., Nashua, ramblingtale.com, 318-3220) at 6:30 p.m.
• Wednesday trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

• Wednesday The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events) at 6:30 p.m.
• Wednesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney at Backyard Brewery (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, backyardbrewerynh.com) 7 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, ribsback.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..
• Wednesday trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-3751, snhgh.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.
• Second Wednesday of every month trivia at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) at 7:30 p.m.

dan Quinn, 2 p.m.
Pittsfield
Over the Moon: open mic, 4 p.m.
Portsmouth
Press Room: Arthur Bakopolus Quartet, 6 p.m.

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

Monday, Dec. 23
Dover
Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7

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

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 5:45 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jamie Hughes, 5:30 p.m.

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

Portsmouth
Press Room: Myles Burr, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Bedford
Copper Door: Nate Comp, 5 p.m.

Concord
Barley House: Irish session, 6

p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.
Hampton
L Street: Susie Moses, 4 p.m.
Manchester
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Steve Aubert, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25
Hampton
L Street: Bob Tirelli, 4 p.m.

Manchester
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Milford
Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Pittsfield
Over the Moon: Doug Mitchell, 6:30 p.m.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 6

ect downstairs. 2026 is the 20th anniversary of that project. You will start seeing a lot of upgrades and additions to the model, as well as new exhibits coming around that model, really showcasing some of the cool science stories that are happening there.

How did the Lego Millyard Project come to be?

[W]e're in the building with FIRST.... It's another nonprofit that encourages kids to get involved in science and STEM through robotics ... and they have an ongoing partnership with Lego. We were lucky enough to be able to work with Lego through FIRST's partnership to be able to design the Lego Millyard project. And it was a pretty awesome project. We got two master builders from Lego [who] came here ... and helped design all of the buildings you see down in the project. It took about two years to create, about 10,000 man-hours, over three million Legos. It's a pretty huge endeavor, but we are still a Guinness World Record holder for the largest permanent display of a minifigure scale in the world. It also won a historic preservation award because there's a lot of buildings that are no longer there that have been represented to scale in the model. Legos are like this wonderful, imaginative vehicle for play, so it's exciting for us to really show this model that not just represents the history of Manchester, but also encourages people to explore and think about the things they can create.

How did you become interested in run-

ning a science museum?

I from a very young age wanted to be in museums. When I was in third grade, I was studying cultures around the world and my mom took me and my little brother to see the mummies at the New York State Museum. I think I started my first museum in middle school. I'm getting close to 30 years in museums, which is insane to me but I think what I love about it is I feel like it's all those wonderful things that make us human that ... a lot of times you don't get the chance to celebrate, like museums are spaces of thinking deeply, of being around your family and friends, of exploring something new that you maybe didn't know about ... that feeling of discovery is always right around the corner and I just love the feeling of being able to come to work and being like, 'what am I going to learn new today?' I don't know that everybody gets a chance to do that in their jobs. For me, it's just amazing.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention about the SEE Science Center?

I would definitely say for folks who might be visiting during the holiday week, we always encourage them to pre-register. You don't have to pay ahead of time, but you can save your spot so we make sure that when you come you can get through the door.... We hope to get lots of folks here for the holidays, because it's always tons of fun when we get all the kids on the floor. There'll be great exhibits, demonstrations, and hopefully a lot of volunteers running kid activities, so it should be a lot of fun.

— Zachary Lewis 🐘



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NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH ADAM EZRA GROUP
 TUESDAY | DECEMBER 31 | 9:00 P.M.



DUELING PIANOS
 FRIDAY | JANUARY 3 | 8:00 P.M.



CAPTAIN JACK AND THE STRANGERS
 A TRIBUTE TO BILLY JOEL
 SATURDAY | JANUARY 4 | 8:00 P.M.



TUPELO NIGHT OF COMEDY
 FRIDAY | JANUARY 10 | 8:00 P.M.



EAGLEMANIA
 A TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES
 SATURDAY | JANUARY 11 | 8:00 P.M.



BLUES BROTHERS THE NEXT GENERATION
 FRIDAY | JANUARY 17 | 8:00 P.M.



TICKETS AND OUR FULL SCHEDULE AT:
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Concerts

Venues

Alpine Grove 19 S. Depot Road, Hollis, alpinegrove.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

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, flying-monkeynh.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

Press Room 77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, press-roomnh.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, thestrandardover.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

- **Lunasa** Thursday, Dec. 19, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Word Barn
- **Buzz Ball** Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Cap Center
- **John Pizzarelli** Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Harvey Reid & Joyce Andersen** Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose
- **Quiet Riot** Thursday, Dec. 19, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Abrielle Scharff** Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Granite State Ringers** Friday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Park Theatre
- **Whammer Jammer** (J. Geils tribute) Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Sara Evans** Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **deSoL** Friday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage
- **The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight** Friday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **Thunderstruck** (AC/DC tribute) Friday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **The Rock Dwellers/Rigometrics** Friday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas** Saturday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., BNH Stage
- **Say ZuZu** Saturday, Dec. 21, 3 p.m., Press Room
- **Low Lily** Saturday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **Jane Monheit** Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Elvis Christmas Concert** Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre
- **Canadian Brass** Saturday, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

- **Christmas With Neil** (Neil Diamond tribute) Sunday, Dec. 22, 2 p.m., LaBelle Winery Amherst
- **The Tenors** Sunday, Dec. 22, 3 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **Candlelight Carol Sing** Sunday, Dec. 22, 5 p.m., Orchard Chapel
- **Heartspur** Sunday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **Fairytale of New York** Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Eric Johanson** Sunday, Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Stella Cole** Monday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Catwolf/Palana vs. The Man/Five Feet** Friday, Dec. 27, 6 p.m., Press Room
- **Ralph Allen** Friday, Dec. 27, 7 p.m., Luna Bistro
- **Kandace Springs** Friday, Dec. 27, and Saturday, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Moondance** (Van Morrison tribute) Friday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m., Lakeport Opera House
- **Zach Nugent's Dead Set** Friday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **Wolfman Jack** (Grateful Dead tribute) Friday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Strand
- **Consider the Source/Leon Trout** Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- **Bella's Bartok** Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Recycled Percussion** Saturday, Dec. 28, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 29, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Rochester Opera House
- **DiTrani Brothers/Moon Hollow** Saturday, Dec. 28, 6 p.m., Press Room
- **Enter the Haggis** Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Primal Soup** Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., Stone Church
- **DJ Milzy/DJ Skid** Sunday, Dec. 29, 10 p.m., Press Room
- **Diamond Blues** Sunday, Dec. 29, 6 p.m., Press Room
- **Forever Simon & Garfunkel** Sunday, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Studio Two** (Beatles tribute) Sunday, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre
- **Alexia Scott** Monday, Dec. 30, 5:30 p.m., Press Room
- **Dueling Pianos** Monday, Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Recycled Percussion** Tuesday, Dec. 31 through Jan. 12, Rex
- **Dueling Pianos** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m., Sheraton Nashua
- **Cathedral** (Van Halen tribute) Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Big Easy** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., BNH Stage



Quiet Riot

5 p.m., Rochester Opera House

- **DiTrani Brothers/Moon Hollow** Saturday, Dec. 28, 6 p.m., Press Room
- **Enter the Haggis** Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Primal Soup** Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., Stone Church
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- **Dueling Pianos** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m., Sheraton Nashua
- **Cathedral** (Van Halen tribute) Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey
- **Big Easy** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., BNH Stage

- **Adrienne Mack-Davis/32French/Sound Around Us** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Adam Ezra Group** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., Tupelo
- **Rockspring** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **The Dapper Gents** Thursday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **A Strange Day** (Cure tribute) Friday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Story Songs of the '70s** Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m., Rex
- **Captain Jack and the Strangers** Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo
- **Harsh** Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m., Press Room
- **Pizzastock** Sunday, Jan. 5, 1 p.m., Tupelo
- **Lyle Brewer Quartet** Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Maurice "Mobetta" Brown** Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's
- **Crush** (Dave Matthews tribute) Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace
- **Get the Led Out** (Led Zepelin tribute) Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre
- **Gavin Marengi Band** Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge
- **The Machine** (Pink Floyd) Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House
- **Scottish Fish** Saturday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Word Barn
- **British Invasion II** Saturday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., Majestic Theatre

TOASTMASTER GENERAL



If you've watched NESN Comedy All Stars or BET's Comic View, you've probably seen **Chris Tabb**. He's known for his high-octane comedy that makes audiences laugh till their faces hurt. He stops by Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

RECYCLED SEASON



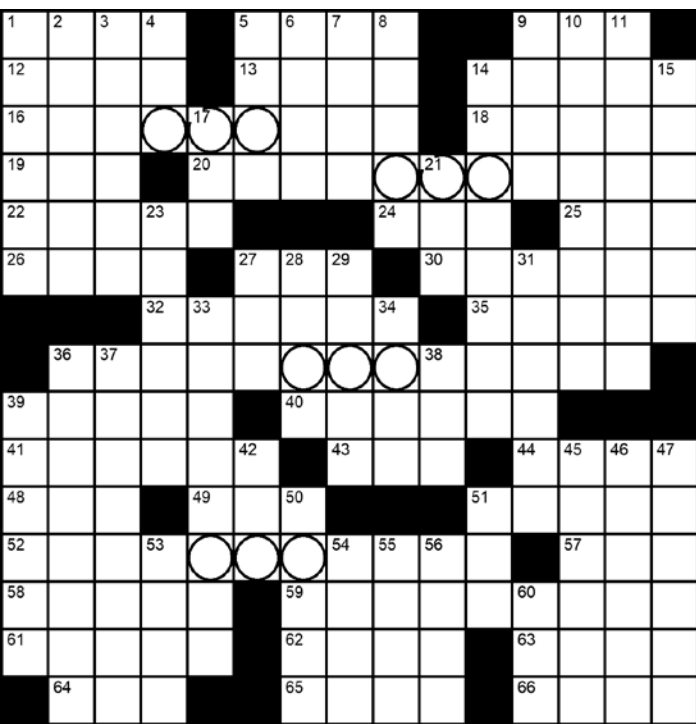
Continuing a turn-of-the-year tradition, **Recycled Percussion** will begin a run of shows on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org). Shows are 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on New Year's Eve; noon and 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1; and then shows Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 12. See the website for times. Tickets cost \$39 to \$49.

ABBY'S HOLIDAYS



Portsmouth native **Abrielle Scharff** has performed in London and New York City, but has remained close to her Granite State roots. She returns to the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org) for her Abby's Holidays shows on Friday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$31 to \$41, plus fees.

"Centers of Attention" – literally and figuratively.



Across

- 1. "Midnite Vultures" musician
- 5. False witness
- 9. PPO alternative
- 12. Biodiversity sci.
- 13. Taj Mahal city
- 14. Kinder chocolate biscuit bar
- 16. NYC mayor Ed Koch's greeting (or just a question of evaluation)
- 18. "Rags-to-riches" author Horatio
- 19. Hoppy concoction
- 20. Western Nevada body of water with distinctive rock structures sticking out
- 22. Vice ____
- 24. Pitcher's asset
- 25. Indian lentil dish
- 26. In ____ (basically)
- 27. X in the Greek alphabet
- 30. Those running leisurely
- 32. Slow the progress of
- 35. The "V" in CV
- 36. CBS panel show hosted by Taylor Tomlinson
- 39. Book with routes
- 40. Shetlands, e.g.
- 41. Endocrinologist's concerns
- 43. Racing driver Verstappen
- 44. Petty squabble
- 48. Gobble up
- 49. Wanted poster abbr.
- 51. Overwhelmingly
- 52. Dale Earnhardt, Sr. nickname, with "The"
- 57. Yucatan yell
- 58. "Goosebumps" author R. L.

Down

- 13. Neighbor of Cygnus and Draco
- 17. Act properly
- 18. French academies
- 20. Shrinks in fear
- 21. Dutch airline that's three letters in a row
- 23. "A Black ____ Sketch Show"
- 24. "Frankenstein" assistant
- 27. Opera highlight
- 28. "____ 1/2" (classic manga)
- 29. Ship bottom
- 30. Dave Mustaine thrash metal band
- 31. Basic gold unit
- 33. Basis for an "MST3K" episode, generally
- 34. Vague caveat
- 35. Linguist's notation system, for short
- 38. Non-virtual, for short
- 39. Vegan food also called "wheat gluten"
- 40. Lifeguard training subj.
- 41. Burlap base
- 42. Take the cake, for example
- 43. Complete mess
- 44. "____ et messieurs ..."
- 45. Mrs. Garrett on "The Facts of Life"
- 46. Like Chris Tucker and Ed Helms, by birth
- 47. Reason to pull over

- 59. Centers represented by the circled letters
- 61. Grades
- 62. "____ least consider the possibility"
- 63. "30 Rock" costar Baldwin
- 64. "Excitebike" gaming platform
- 65. Faucets

WORD ★ Roundup™

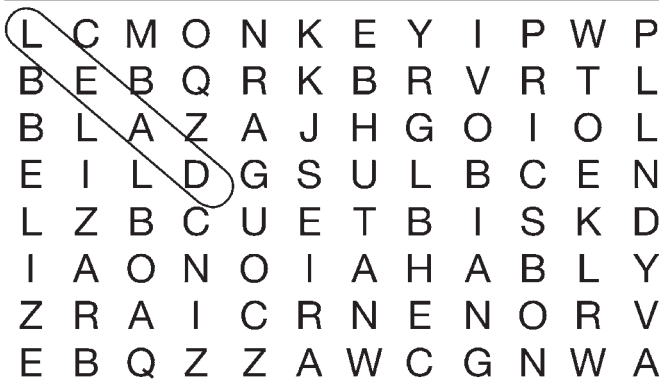
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four four-letter metals
- Four six-letter mammals
- Three countries starting with B
- Movie boxer (first/last name)
- Two five-letter zodiac signs

Last Week's Answers: ORANGE LEMON LIME / BACON LETTUCE TOMATO / ALPHA BRAVO CHARLIE / TROUT PERCH SHARK / BARBARIAN DESTROYER

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- 38. Overrule
- 39. Type of hiring discrimination
- 42. Winter Olympics item
- 45. "We can hope!"
- 46. Move unsteadily
- 47. Coke-owned citrus soft drink
- 50. Take the blame for
- 51. Word following tech or crypto
- 53. Tattoo parlor stock

- 54. Opera set near the Nile
- 55. Letters on a vaccine for whooping cough (among other things)
- 56. Chooses (to)
- 60. Consequent ending?

© 2024 Matt Jones



THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

9x		2÷	
	3-	1-	2÷
2÷			
	6+		

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CHALLENGING

20x	9+			2÷	2÷
	72x	2÷	6		
			7+		14+
12x	1-			10+	
	15x	5-			
			10x		4

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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

4-3-23

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

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

3-	2÷	2-	
1	4	2	3
4	2	3	1
3	3-		2÷
3	1	4	2
5+		1	
2	3	1	4

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24x	15x	3+	11+	4
2	3	5	1	6
3	4	1	2	5
4	2	6	5	3
6	5	4	3	1
1	6	3	4	2
5	1	2	6	4

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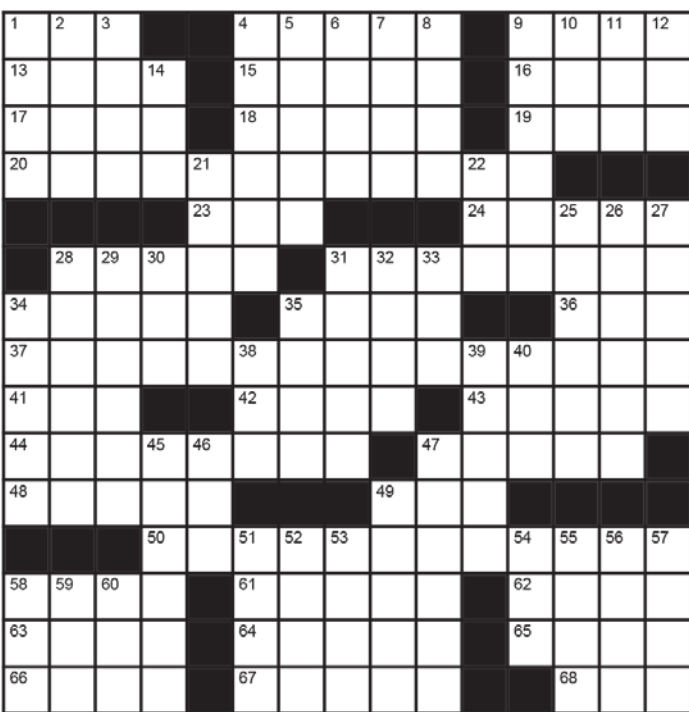
Soften it up

Across

- 1. Loggins partner Messina
- 4. Will Smith "Here come the ___ Black"
- 9. Over The Rhine's album named after Midwestern state
- 13. Eric Church "Some ___ you learn the hard way"
- 15. Shock rocker Cooper in Dark Shadows movie
- 16. 25 million selling German pop star
- 17. Original MTV VJ Blackwood
- 18. Dry out, as after tour
- 19. Heartthrob turned train wreck Garrett
- 20. Juice Newton & Brenda Lee both did 'Break ___'
- 23. English 'Misfit' Studt
- 24. Henry Lee Summer '___ I Had A Girl'
- 28. Interpol created '___ Mess' for us to clean
- 31. Foxborough, MA concert stadium and home to The Pats
- 34. 'If Ever You're In My Arms Again' Bryson
- 35. Soundgarden 'Jesus Christ ___'
- 36. Madonna "Give ___ chance to go and I'll take it"
- 37. '02 No Doubt hit "You're really lovely ___"

- 41. ___ A Yellow Ribbon Round The Ole Oak Tree
- 42. Low choir woman
- 43. The Doors 'Love Her' this way
- 44. Tribute band copies or does this
- 47. T Rex '___ White Swan'
- 48. Country girl Tucker
- 49. 'La Bamba' ___ Lobos
- 50. Alt-rockers Jimmie's ___
- 58. Bon Jovi drummer Torres
- 61. '03 Thrive song 'All ___ Left'
- 62. Bryan Adams "Everything ___ do it for you"
- 63. Cream got everything they wanted then sang '___ Glad'
- 64. Argentine dance
- 65. Make fun of, as comical and fake documentary
- 66. 'Mighty Quinn' Manfred
- 67. 'Live At The Hammersmith ___' Black Sabbath
- 68. Beatles "Why she had to ___ don't know, she wouldn't say"

- Happy'
- 3. Cure '___ Car'
- 4. The Haunted were forced on '___ Do It'
- 5. As I Lay Dying song that is a mournful poem, perhaps
- 6. 'In The Still Of The ___' was misspelled by Boyz II Men
- 7. Star historically representing rock is this
- 8. The Who 'Who's ___'
- 9. '04 Keane hit 'Somewhere ___ Know'
- 10. Country music TV show ___ Haw
- 11. Slipknot feels evil inside on 'The Devil ___'
- 12. Star that blew it all is a buffoon or this
- 14. Hurt's 'Fighting' Confucian path or this
- 21. Country estate-inspired 40s jazz label
- 22. Size of rapper Kim
- 25. CSN&Y "Glad that you got ___"
- 26. Charting soundtrack 'How ___ Got Her Groove Back'
- 27. Blind guitarist Jeff
- 28. Tool's second '96 album
- 29. Video will dissolve from blank screen or do this
- 30. Chicago 'What Kind Of Man
- 31. John Danielle Mountain ___
- 32. Teddy Bears 'To Know Him ___ Love Him'
- 33. Lynyrd Skynyrd (Pronounced ___-Nerd Skin-Nerd)
- 34. Paul McCartney will say '___ There' when he shakes your hand
- 35. English band inspired by Brazilian soccer icon?
- 38. 'Too Young' ___ King Cole
- 39. '04 Blink-182 forlorn ballad '___ You'
- 40. May like band just a touch or this
- 45. Peter Morén's 'The Last ___' album was inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's unfinished '41 novel
- 46. Gina G 'Ooh ___...Just A Little Bit'
- 47. 'Uptown Funk' Mark
- 49. James Blunt "And I told you all my secrets, all my fears, I've ___"
- 51. Trixter 'Give ___ Me Good'
- 52. Singer Kroeger of Nickelback
- 53. Canadian 'The Epic' rap duo Citizen
- 54. Tom Petty "It'll all work out eventually, better off with ___ than here with me"
- 55. Iggy Pop wanted to bark like this on '69 hit
- 56. Albert Collins 70s drummer Montoya
- 57. 'True Love' redhead Dee
- 58. Replacements 'Hold My Life' album
- 59. Dwight Yoakam "___ thousand miles from nowhere"
- 60. Stephen Stills band (abbr)



Down

- 1. Female folk icon Mitchell
- 2. Sheryl Crow '___ Makes You

R&R answer from pg 40 of 12/5



Jonesin' answer from pg 48 of 12/12



© 2024 Todd Santos

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

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle C

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

All quotes are from *100 Things Every Designer Needs to Know About People*, by Susan Weinschenck, born Dec. 24, 1953.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Recognizing patterns helps you make quick sense of the sensory input that comes to you every second. Every. Second.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *People need to feel that they have a good chance of completing the goal to get into, and hold onto, the flow state. Subgoals are useful.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Don't expect that people will necessarily pay attention to information you provide.... Just don't.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *If people have trouble reading the font, they will transfer that feeling of difficulty to the meaning of the text itself and decide that the subject of the text is hard to do or understand. Restate it in your own font.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *... you don't have to eat the chocolate cake when you see it, you don't have to flirt with the attractive person who walked into the room, and you don't have to run away from the big, scary guy who walked in the room with the good-looking woman. But you will notice all of those things whether you want to or not. Notice and move on.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *People won't always choose the fastest way to complete a task. You're working on it, right?*

Gemini (May 21 – June 21) *If you have to add a few clicks but it means the person doesn't have to think or remember as much, that's worth it, because adding clicks is less of a load than thinking. Think before you click.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *The shorter the distance to the goal, the more moti-*

vated people are to reach it. Whatever's easiest, man.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *Use progressive disclosure. Show people what they need when they need it. Not too early, not too late.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Make it easy for people to undo not only their last action but also an entire sequence. If only.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *If you are doing a physical task that you have done very, very often and you are very good at, then you can do that physical task while you are doing a mental task. So if you are an adult and you have learned to talk, then you can walk and talk at the same time. Well, maybe. Sometimes you need to limber up.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *If people perform a series of steps over and over again, the action will become automatic. It takes time. 🧠*

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 thick lotion (5)	_____
2 gliding at a rink (7)	_____
3 Wayne Gretzky's sport (6)	_____
4 pursuing perch, perhaps (7)	_____
5 ledge for books (5)	_____
6 performing a ballet (7)	_____
7 make out of marble (9)	_____

SH

SK

EY

NG

CRE

CK

ELF

AM

RE

FIS

HO

NCI

DA

ATI

HI

SC

NG

PTU

NG

UL

Last Week's Answers: 1. TREBEK 2. LUDDEN 3. MARSHALL 4. BARKER 5. CLARK 6. MARTINDALE 7. SAJAK

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Sudoku Answers from pg 47 of 12/12

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: [level_val] folio_str

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/27

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/29

Legal Notice

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Judicial Branch NH CIRCUIT COURT

**9th Circuit - Family Division - Nashua
30 Spring St., Suite 102, Nashua, NH 03060**

**Telephone: 1-855-212-1234
TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964
https://www.courts.nh.gov**

CITATION FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION Abuse/Neglect of Child(ren) TO: Michelle Merrill

28 Amory Street, Apt A, Nashua, NH 03060
formerly of and now parts unknown
Case Number: **659-2024-JV-00271**

Preliminary Hearing: A petition has been filed, pursuant to RSA 169-C, alleging your child(ren) has(have) been abused/neglected. You are hereby cited to appear at Court, as set forth below, to address the pending petition. If you are named in the petition as the parent alleged to have abused/neglect your child(ren), you are a petitioned parent. If you are not named in the petition as alleged to have abused/neglected your child, you are a non-petitioned parent.

**Date: January 13, 2025 | Time: 2:30 PM
Time Allotted: 30 Minutes
30 Spring St., Nashua, NH 03060
Courtroom 9 - 9th Circuit Court - Nashua**

CAUTION TO RESPONDENT: It is very important that you personally appear in this Court on the date, time and place provided in this notice. If you fail to personally appear, you will be defaulted and will waive your right to object to any findings made by the Court and orders issued, including but not limited to those made and issued as follows:

- At a Preliminary Hearing, the Court will determine whether there is

reasonable cause to find your child(ren) is(are) abused/neglected.

- At a Notification of Rights and Consequences hearing for a non-petitioned parent, the Court will inform the parent about the impact of a finding of abuse/neglect on their parental rights;
- At an Adjudicatory Hearing, the Court will determine whether there is sufficient evidence of abuse/neglect of your child(ren) and if so, will make a finding and schedule a dispositional hearing; and
- At a Dispositional Hearing, the Court will issue a final order of abuse/neglect and issue orders for the conditions of abuse/neglect that must be corrected by parents.
- Further, by failing to appear you will not be able to provide the Court with your current address, and thus the Court will have no ability to notify you of subsequent RSA 169-C hearings.

IMPORTANT RIGHTS OF PARENTS: WHETHER YOU ARE A PETITIONED OR NON-PETITIONED PARENT, IF THE COURT DETERMINES, OR HAS DETERMINED, THERE IS EVIDENCE YOUR CHILD(REN) IS(ARE) ABUSED/NEGLECTED, THE COURT'S ORDERS WILL AFFECT YOU AND YOUR CHILD(REN) AND MAY AFFECT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE TERMINATED. THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES TO YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS MAY BE REVIEWED BY CLICKING ON THE COURT FORM, "Acknowledgement of Possible Consequences to Parental Rights in Abuse & Neglect Cases" (NHJB-2209-F) at www.courts.nh.gov/our-courts/circuit-court/family-division/forms/juvenile-abuse-and-neglect.

Once you appear, you have the right to oppose the proceedings and to present evidence. Pursuant to RSA 169-C:10, II(a), a petitioned parent has the right to an attorney, and if such parent cannot afford an attorney, an attorney will be appointed by the Court. The Court has the discretion to appoint an attorney for a non-petitioned parent who is a household member, if such a parent cannot afford an attorney. In either of these circumstances, please contact the court to obtain a financial affidavit if you wish to request court-appointed counsel. The Court has no statutory authority to appoint an attorney for a non-petitioned parent who is not a household member, however such parent may hire their own attorney. Additional information may be obtained from the Family Division Court identified in the heading of this Citation.

If you will need an interpreter or other accommodations for this hearing, please contact the Court immediately.

Please be advised (and/or advise clients, witnesses, and others) that it is a Class B felony to carry a firearm or other deadly weapon as defined in RSA 625:11, V in a courtroom or area used by a court.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sherry L. Bisson
Sherry L. Bisson, Clerk of Court

December 12, 2024
(825) C:

Legal Notice

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE Judicial Branch NH CIRCUIT COURT

**9th Circuit - Family Division - Nashua
30 Spring St., Suite 102, Nashua, NH 03060**

**Telephone: 1-855-212-1234
TTY/TDD Relay: (800) 735-2964
https://www.courts.nh.gov**

CITATION BY PUBLICATION - Termination of Parental Rights TO: Kenny Eustate

formerly of and now parts unknown
Case Number: **659-2024-TR-00031**

Preliminary Hearing: A petition to terminate parental rights over your minor child(ren) has been filed in this Court. You are hereby cited to appear at a Court to respond to this petition as follows:

**Date: January 13, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM
Time Allotted: 30 Minutes
30 Spring St., Nashua, NH 03060
Courtroom 9 - 9th Circuit Court - Nashua**

CAUTION TO RESPONDENT: It is very important that you personally appear in this Court on the date, time and place provided in this notice. If you fail to personally appear, you may be defaulted and your parental rights may be terminated even if you are represented by an attorney who has filed a written appearance and/or personally appears at this hearing.

IMPORTANT RIGHTS OF PARENTS: THIS PETITION IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER YOUR CHILD(REN) SHALL BE TERMINATED. TERMINATION OF THE PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP MEANS THE TERMINATION SHALL DIVEST YOU OF ALL LEGAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE LOSS OF ALL RIGHTS TO CUSTODY, VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD(REN). IF TERMINATION IS GRANTED, YOU WILL RECEIVE NO NOTICE OF FUTURE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING YOUR CHILD(REN).

You are hereby notified that you have a right to be represented by an attorney. You also have the right to oppose the proceedings, to attend the hearing and to present evidence. If you desire an attorney, you may notify this Court within ten (10) days of receiving this notice and upon a finding of indigency, the Court will appoint an attorney without cost to you. If you enter an appearance, notice of any future hearings regarding this child(ren) will be by first class mail to you, your attorney and all other interested parties not less than ten (10) days prior to any scheduled hearing. Additional information may be obtained from the Family Division Court identified in the heading of this Order of Notice.

If you will need an interpreter or other accommodations for this hearing, please contact the court immediately. Please be advised (and/or advise clients, witnesses, and others) that it is a Class B felony to carry a firearm or other deadly weapon as defined in RSA 625:11, V in a courtroom or area used by a court.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sherry L. Bisson
Sherry L. Bisson, Clerk of Court

November 27, 2024
(888) C: Kenny Eustate; Darin Hood-Tucker, ESQ; Brian E. Major, ESQ

CAUTION TO RESPONDENT: It is very important that you personally appear in this Court on the date, time and place provided in this notice. If you fail to personally appear, you may be defaulted and your parental rights may be terminated even if you are represented by an attorney who has filed a written appearance and/or personally appears at this hearing.

IMPORTANT RIGHTS OF PARENTS: THIS PETITION IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER YOUR CHILD(REN) SHALL BE TERMINATED. TERMINATION OF THE PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP MEANS THE TERMINATION SHALL DIVEST YOU OF ALL LEGAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE LOSS OF ALL RIGHTS TO CUSTODY, VISITATION AND COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR CHILD(REN). IF TERMINATION IS GRANTED, YOU WILL RECEIVE NO NOTICE OF FUTURE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING YOUR CHILD(REN).

You are hereby notified that you have a right to be represented by an attorney. You also have the right to oppose the proceedings, to attend the hearing and to present evidence. If you desire an attorney, you may notify this Court within ten (10) days of receiving this notice and upon a finding of indigency, the Court will appoint an attorney without cost to you. If you enter an appearance, notice of any future hearings regarding this child(ren) will be by first class mail to you, your attorney and all other interested parties not less than ten (10) days prior to any scheduled hearing. Additional information may be obtained from the Family Division Court identified in the heading of this Order of Notice.

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BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sherry L. Bisson
Sherry L. Bisson, Clerk of Court

November 27, 2024
(888) C: Kenny Eustate; Darin Hood-Tucker, ESQ; Brian E. Major, ESQ

Awesome!

A Laysan albatross named Wisdom, who lives at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, laid what experts believe to be her 60th egg recently, her first in four years. Wisdom is 74 years old, the Associated Press reported on Dec. 6. Laysan albatrosses mate for life; Wisdom's mate, Akeakamai, has not been seen for several years, and Wisdom started stepping out with another male. "We are optimistic that the egg will hatch," said Jonathan Plissner, supervisory wildlife biologist at the refuge. Eggs typically incubate for about two months. *AP, Dec. 6*

Sign of the Times

An unnamed woman in Chongqing, China, landed the grand prize of \$1,380 after she managed to avoid using her mobile phone for ... one hour, MSN reported on Dec. 3. A local business organized the "public welfare challenge" aimed to spotlight the issue of smartphone addiction. The winning participant showed up in her jammies and had to lie perfectly still, without benefit of distractions like books or movies. Out of 10 contestants, she was the only one who prevailed. *MSN, Dec. 3*

Eyes All Over

Ever feel like you're being watched? Someone in Bend, Oregon, has been putting googly eyes on public artwork in local roundabouts, reported the Sacramento Bee on Dec. 8. At least eight statues and sculptures have been "enhanced" so far, and city officials are none too pleased. "While the googly eyes placed on the various art pieces around town might give you a chuckle, it costs money to remove them with care to not damage the art," read a Dec. 4 post on the city's Instagram page. It seems the adhesive used by the googly bandit can damage the artwork; the city claims to have spent \$1,500 on repairs so far. However, the comments on the city's post were decidedly pro-whimsy: "These googly eyes give me the hope to move forward each day," read one. Others included: "Let us have some fun," "Googly eyes keep my mental health in a good place," and the hard-to-argue-with "LONG LIVE GOOGLY EYES!" *Sacramento Bee, Dec. 8*

That's Commitment

And you thought your commute was tough. International student Guangli Xu, 28, currently in his final semester at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

in Australia, went viral in early December after posting a video on Douyin (the Chinese version of TikTok) documenting his weekly commute. That is, his weekly 5,468-mile commute. Xu told SBS Mandarin that the trip from his hometown of Dezhou in China's Shandong province to Melbourne and back — a journey he made 11 times between August and October — costs about \$1,500, which ends up being comparable to what his cost of living would be if he stayed in Melbourne full-time. "But I think the money is better spent [in China]," Xu said, "because the overall cost here is lower." *SBS, Dec. 8*

Issss That You Ssssnoring?

Here's some news to help you replenish your stock of nightmare fuel. The Indian Express reported that a man in Stellenbosch, South Africa, found a surprise under his bedroom pillow when he returned home in late November: a live cape cobra. The man immediately called Stellenbosch Snake Removals, who posted a video clip on Nov. 24 on Facebook of the removal by expert snake wrangler Emile Rossouw. The company called the highly venomous snake "by far our most dangerous cobra," and said "with the Black Mamba it accounts for the majority

of fatal snake bites in South Africa." Sleep tight. *Indian Express, Dec. 11*

Yay, Science!

A Chicago middle schooler brought some goose droppings to science club — and landed in the middle of a biomedical breakthrough. The club is supervised by researchers from the University of Illinois as part of an initiative to "involve young learners in the search for new antibiotics," reported ScienceAlert on Dec. 5. Students were instructed to "explore their neighborhood for new bioactive compounds." Hence, goose poop from a local park. With the help of the pros, the student safely isolated a bacterium from the droppings that showed antibiotic activity — an incredibly rare and important feat, say the experts. Not only that, but the bacterium also produced a never-before-seen natural compound which, in lab tests, slowed the growth of certain cancer cells. The student is now listed as a co-author of the peer-reviewed paper on the discoveries. *ScienceAlert, Dec. 5*

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



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NEW YEARS SPECIALS

New Year's Eve Dinner Special begins
at 5pm 12/31 (kitchen open until midnight)

1ST COURSE

Choice of Garden Salad or French Onion Soup

2ND COURSE

Cranberry Balsamic Ribeye Roast
served with mashed potatoes and
roasted Brussel sprouts with bacon

3RD COURSE

Choice of: NY Style Cheesecake with
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