

the Hippo

DEC 26, 2024 - JAN 1, 2025

**FAMILY
FUN P. 16**

**HOT TUNES FOR
COLD NIGHTS P.34**

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FREE

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

**SAYING GOODBYE TO THE YEAR
PLUS A LOOK AHEAD AT 2025**

INSIDE: DINNERS & PARTIES ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

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ON THE COVER
SEE YOU LATER, 2024! In this week's issue we look back at some of the significant happenings from 2024 — in the business community (page 6), in sports (page 7), in arts (page 10), in food (page 18), in film (page 26) and in the local music scene (page 28). And we take a look ahead at 2025 — let's give the year one last look before it fades away.

ALSO ON THE COVER And before we turn the calendar to 2025, send the year off with some fun. Check out our listing of some local restaurants' plans for the big night on page 18. On page 30 we take a look at some of the parties, musical performances and comedy scheduled for Dec. 31. We even have some ways for the kids to celebrate as well as other ideas for family fun on page 16. And for fun any day during this between-y time week, check out the Music This Week (page 34) for live music at area restaurants and breweries.

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NEWS & NOTES

Leadership Program

Stay Work Play is now accepting applications for its 2025 Rising Stars Leadership Program, a leadership development initiative tailored to young people across a myriad of industries from February through June, according to a press release.

The program consists of six in-person sessions that focuses on leadership skills, community engagement and fostering ambition for the Granite State. Tuition is \$2,000 and discounts are available for Stay Work Play Board of Advisor members, according to the release. Applications are due Friday, Jan. 24. Visit stayworkplay.org/rising-stars-leadership-program for more information.

In a statement, Corinne Benfield, Executive Director of Stay Work Play NH said “the Rising Stars Leadership Program exemplifies our mission to elevate and empower the incredible young people that call the 603 home. By investing in this program, we are ensuring that New Hampshire has strong ambassadors who can help shape New Hampshire to be an attractive and vibrant place to live, work, and play.”

Here, fishy, fishy, fishy

According to a press release, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department stocks trout during the fall to bolster the winter ice fishery for winter anglers.

Fish and Game has listed on its website links for different bodies of water that are open year-round as well as rules for these water bodies with special regulations

included in the New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest, which is also available from license agents, according to the same release.

The following lakes and ponds were stocked with trout during the fall of 2024 and are open to ice fishing: Akers Pond in Errol, Beaver Pond in Woodstock, Bow Lake in Strafford, Cedar Pond in Milan, Big Diamond Pond in Stewartstown (opens Wednesday, Jan. 1), Higher Ground Pond in Wentworth, Highland Lake in Andover, Hildreth Pond in Warren, Little Dan Hole Pond in Ossipee, Manning Lake in Gilmanston, Martin Meadow Pond in Lancaster, Mascoma Lake in Enfield, Mirror Lake in Woodstock, Newfound Lake in Bristol, Ogontz Lake in Lyman, Pearl Lake in Lisbon, Perch Pond in Lisbon, Pleasant Lake in Deerfield, Streeter Pond in Sugar Hill, Sunapee Lake in Newbury, Tewksbury Pond in Grafton, Webster Lake in Franklin, White Lake in Tamworth, and Winnisquam Lake in Laconia. There are additional ones not listed here.

In a statement, Fish and Game’s Inland Fisheries Program Supervisor John Magee said that “the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s hatcheries stock post-spawn brook and brown trout into selected water bodies that do not have a closed season before winter. These fish can range from 2 to 3 pounds each. Numbers, dates, and stocking locations vary annually. I would encourage anglers of all skill levels to take advantage of this season’s stocked opportunities throughout New

Hampshire when weather conditions are favorable and once the ice is safe.”

In another statement, he said that “The Granite State’s rivers and streams open to fishing on Jan. 1, and there are some quality fish to be caught in some of the tailwater fisheries such as the Newfound River. When water levels are drawn down on larger lakes for the fall, prize-sized fish often drop down below dams, creating opportunities for savvy winter anglers. This winter’s free fishing day is Jan. 18, so why not try your luck through the ice this year.”

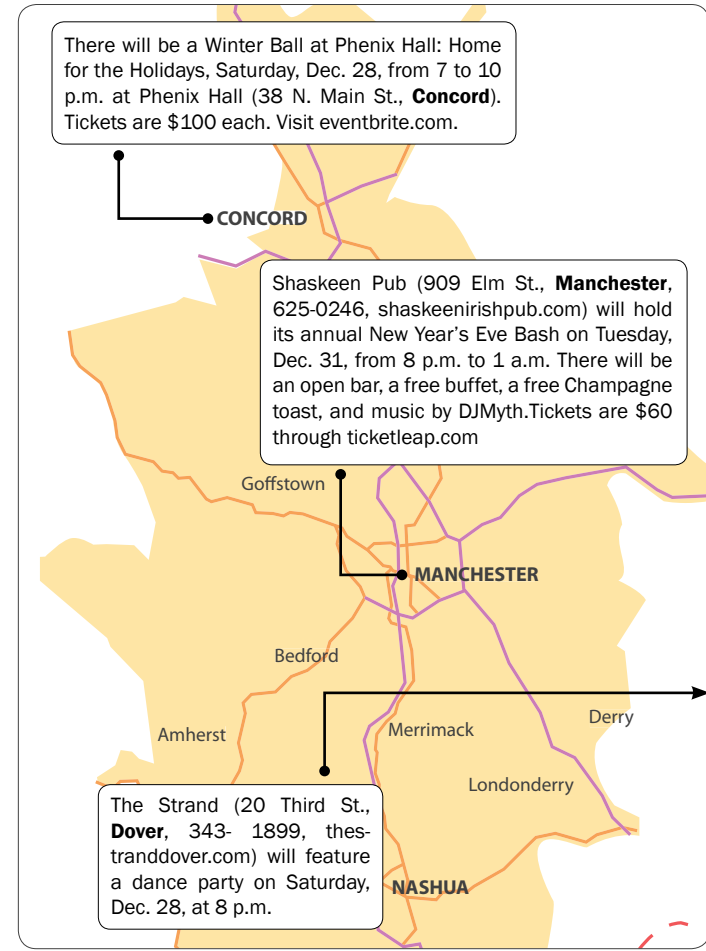
To learn more about ice fishing in New Hampshire visit wildlife.nh.gov.

More access to education

According to a press release, New Hampshire’s public higher education systems have created more than 100 direct pathways designed to help students move smoothly from associate degree programs offered by New Hampshire’s community colleges to bachelor’s degree programs offered by the University System.

This collaboration between the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) and the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) makes it easier for students to continue their education, earn subsequent degrees more efficiently, and fill critical jobs in New Hampshire’s workforce faster and with less debt, according to the release.

Students currently enrolled in



or planning to enter any of New Hampshire’s seven community colleges can now follow clear, structured pathways that lead directly to bachelor’s degrees at Keene State College, Plymouth State University, or the University of New Hampshire (UNH), which includes UNH Durham, Manchester and the College of Professional Studies Online, according to the release.

In a statement, USNH Chancellor Catherine Provencher said “these pathways give students the confidence to pursue their educational goals with assurance that we have taken steps to

align programs to help manage time and cost. This collaboration makes it easier for New Hampshire residents to stay in the state, earn a degree, and strengthen our workforce.”

The CCSNH has trained advisors available at each community college and USNH sponsors a centralized Outreach and Enrollment Center that assists with applications, financial aid resources, and other support services available to students in both systems, according to the same release.

For more information visit nhtransfer.org.

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The state of business

Bright spots and challenges

Michael Skelton is the president & CEO of the Business Industry Association, New Hampshire's statewide Chamber of Commerce. He spoke with the Hippo about business in the Granite State. Visit biaofnh.com for more information.

Q: *What has been the biggest challenge for businesses in New Hampshire in 2024?*

The workforce shortage continues to be the biggest challenge, and the insufficient supply of housing at all levels is one of the most significant causes. Virtually all industries are affected, but we are particularly concerned about the impact on vital economic sectors experiencing strong job growth such as manufacturing, life sciences and high-tech.

What do you see as the biggest challenges in 2025?

BIA's priority for 2025 is supporting legislation and policies to spur new housing development, increase affordability and help build our future workforce. Over 27 percent of our workforce is age 55 or older, highest among the states, and New Hampshire faces the retirement of an estimated 200,000 workers in coming years. It's essential to allow more higher-density housing of all types, but particularly starter homes, while streamlining municipal and state approval processes for new housing developments. Recruiting and retaining the next generation of workers depends on significant action this legislative session as it will take years for housing spurred by new policies to be built.

What are the brightest spots of the economy?

The Granite State has incredible opportunities with the burgeoning bio-fabrication and life sciences sector and growing advanced manufacturing sector. A strong manufacturing sector is critical to economic success. Manufacturing's impact ripples throughout the economy from local jobs to research and development that drives innovation and increases productivity. The life sciences and manufacturing sectors will create additional opportunities in our high-tech industry and educational system and growth will spread throughout our economy, creating thousands of high-paying careers.

What are specific advantages in New Hampshire?

U.S. News & World Report named New Hampshire as the second-best state to live in for 2024, citing our safety, fiscal stability and economy. New Hampshire



Michael Skelton. Courtesy photo.

continues to see economic growth and has one of the lowest state unemployment rates in the nation. We also benefit from New Hampshire's business and political leaders who are dedicated to working together to solve the challenges and make our state an even better place to live and do business.

Which businesses are on the rise or do you expect to do well in the state in 2025?

As the New Hampshire affiliate of the National Association of Manufacturers, BIA is proud to promote a strong manufacturing sector. More than 1,100 businesses employ over 42,000 people, 5.6 percent of the state's total employment, and the sector is growing, adding over 1,000 jobs from 2017 to 2022. These are well-paying careers. Average annual earnings for an advanced manufacturing worker in New Hampshire are \$111,728, far exceeding the \$82,673 average for all industries.

Is there anything else about New Hampshire's economy you would like to speak on?

The state must continue efforts to lower the cost of electricity. New Hampshire's industrial electricity rates last fall were 84 percent higher than the U.S. average, and commercial rates were nearly 50 percent higher. These uncompetitive prices raise the cost of doing business and increase the risk of losing companies to less expensive regions. — Zachary Lewis

The year in review



The Big Story – 2024: Time for our annual look at the big stories and best athletes.

Sports 101: In 2024 **Jaylen Brown** became the sixth Celtic to be NBA Finals MVP in 2024. Name the other five.

News Item – The Year's Top Stories:

Patriots are at the Bottom of the NFL: We knew it was going to be bad, but not this bad.

Summer Olympics: The U.S. earned the most gold, men's basketball beat France for the gold, and the women's soccer team regained the top rung in their game worldwide behind, of all people, **Dennis Rodman's** daughter **Trinity**.

Chiefs First to Win Repeat Since NE in 2003-04: After down goes SF for their third, get ready, Patriots fans, because with **Patrick Mahomes** not even 30 yet and the league's best coach, **Andy Reid**, possibly around for another 10 seasons, six or (gulp) more SB wins are not out of the question.

Dodgers Destroy Yanks 4-1 in Series: It had it all: big stars in **Shohei Ohtani** and **Aaron Judge**, the L.A.-N.Y. TV markets and their history of 11 previous World Series meetings. But with four homers, 12 RBI and a walk-off grand slam to win Game 1 **Freddie Freeman** stole the show as L.A. won in a walk. Judge put up similar numbers to what **Dave Winfield** had in 1981 that led **George Steinbrenner** to mock his star as "Mr. May."

UConn Men Win Again: A feel-good story of their being the first to win back-to-back college basketball team titles since Florida in 2006-07 and coach **Dan Hurley** shunning big bucks from the Lakers to stay and go for three.

Belichick Gets Fired: A once un-imaginable ending to his reign in Foxboro. Got it thanks to horrendous drafting, the lunkhead move of putting incompetent **Matt Patricia** in charge of the 2023 offense and his prickly stubbornness finally catching up with him. Which gave us all the definitive answer to "Was it Brady or Belichick?"

Celtics Win NBA Crown: Breezing to the title mostly without injured center **Kristaps Porzingis** was nice. But the real prize was re-taking the lead for most NBA titles at 18 to put the dastardly Lakers back in second place.

The Numbers:

3.798 – grade point average at Colorado for Heisman Trophy-winning two-way guy **Travis Hunter** to make him an actual "student-athlete" as opposed to what many college sports kids are illegitimately called.

186 – string of second most playoff games without winning an NBA title that ended for **Al Horford**.

... Of the Year Awards

Biggest Shock – Belichick Leaves NFL Behind: There isn't one sports pundit anywhere who saw him jumping to college football coming. Not one.

Player of the Year – Shohei Ohtani: After getting the richest sports contract ever (\$700 million) he delivered for the Dodgers as he had the first 50-homer and 50-stolen-base season in baseball history, he was named the NL MVP and his team easily won the World Series.

Biggest Achievement – Caitlin Clark Popularizes Women's Game: The stats and all-time records were impressive. But the fact that her presence in the sport led to the Women's Final Four having higher TV ratings than the men's FF is a heretofore never imagined feat and the most monumental moment for women's sports since **Billie Jean King** took out **Bobby Riggs** in straight sets 51 years earlier.

Lifetime Achievement Award – LeBron James: For two things: (1) breaking Kareem's all-time NBA career scoring record and still chugging along at 38 to pass 40,000 points, and (2) having the amazing durability and longevity to be the first to play in an NBA game with his son, which he did with young Bronny on opening night.

Dumbest Event: The 112-year-old **Mike Tyson** fighting doofus **Jake Paul**.

Thumbs Up – Clark: For her magnanimous comments about those who came before her to build the WNBA throughout her Time Magazine Athlete of the Year profile. Classy.

Thumbs Down: Among the sports luminaries we lost in 2024 were **Willie Mays, Jerry West, Bill Walton, Whitey Herzog, Dikembe Mutombo, Pete Rose, OJ Simpson, Orlando Cepeda, Larry Lucchino, Jimmy Williams, Louie Carnesecca, Luis Tiant** and **Rickey Henderson**. RIP

A Little History – Lakers 17: Sorry, L.A., that's a bogus number. Because five of them came in the early 1950s behind the great **George Mikan** and the boys in Minneapolis, which has had zero connection with L.A. since they left town. So the number for the *L.A. Lakers* is really 12.

Sports 101 Answer: Since the Finals MVP was first awarded in 1969 the six Celtics to win it are **John Havlicek** ('74), **Jo-Jo White** ('76), **Cedric Maxwell** ('81), **Larry Bird** ('84 and '86), **Paul Pierce** ('08) and **Brown** ('24).

Final Thought: Happy holidays to all. Email Dave Long at dlong@hippypress.com.

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

The opposite of dry reading

The Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 225-8670, concordnh.gov/1983/Library) found itself very, very damp, after a ceiling leak during the night on Sunday, Dec. 14. As reported in a Dec. 16 online article by the Concord Monitor, water had come down “through the ceiling in the children’s room and pooled down on the first floor.” On Monday, Dec. 15, the Library posted on its Facebook page, “We have sprung a leak! Please excuse the mess as we dry out. The Main Floor is open for public use with the exception of the adult fiction collection. The Children’s Room and Lower Lounge will be closed for the day. We will be happy to get materials for you from the children’s and adult fiction collections.” The Monitor quoted Library Director Todd Fabian. “A few hundred library items were affected by the leak,” he said, “but how many books are a loss won’t be known for a few days.”

QOL score: -1

Comment: According to the Monitor’s story, the Library has had “a few sizable leaks of this kind” in recent years. Last year the room housing its computer servers was flooded, and the Concord Room, which houses the Library’s historical archives, was flooded before that.

An astronomical achievement

As reported in a Dec. 19 online article by WMUR, a team of students from Nashua has won a competition to have an experiment performed on the International Space Station. “Team Hydra” from the Academy for Science and Design wanted to look more closely at the effects of precipitation in microgravity. As explained by WMUR, “The experiment will analyze how calcium chloride and sodium carbonate interact in space, with potential applications for water filtration systems on Earth and in space exploration.”

QOL score: +1

Comment: Tech company Space Tango will implement and monitor the students’ experiment in space sometime in the next year. The Academy’s team competed against 10 other teams from across the region.

The cost of dog ownership can be ruff

A recent study by online discount platform WeThrift has ranked U.S. states by how much the residents in each spend on their dogs. According to a Dec. 18 press release, “New Hampshire ranks as the eighth most [expensive] state for pet owners, with a total cost of \$1,883.38, 12.36% above the average annual cost across all states.” According to the study, some factors that contribute to the state’s pet spending include the cost of pet food (“an annual cost of \$761.60, 11.54% above the national average”), veterinary care (“\$75.32, which is 8.55% above the average”) and vaccinations (“The state’s annual dog vaccine cost is \$233.46, which is 4.88% above the average”).

QOL score: -1

Comments: The study found that Massachusetts has the highest dog spending in the U.S., at \$2,275.97. The most affordable state dog-maintenance-wise is Kansas, with yearly spending of \$1,403.40.

QOL score last week: 73

Net change: -1

QOL for the end of 2024: 72

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

Let us know at news@hippypress.com. 🐾

75

50

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

DECEMBER 26 AND BEYOND

Monday, Dec. 30

Comedian **Juston McKinney** will close out the year with shows at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashua-centerforthearts.com) tonight at 7 p.m. and tomorrow, Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 5 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39 through the Center's website.



(com): (1) A special **New Year's Eve Scratch Ticket Bingo** tonight at 6:30 p.m. Winners will receive a stack of \$5 scratchies. With purchase guests will receive a complimentary movie pass, a \$5 food voucher to be used toward one food item during the event, a reserved seat, a bingo card and a \$5 scratch ticket (provided by Chunky's) gets added to the pot. Tickets for the event are \$13 each. Or (2) Celebrate with an evening of **standup** with comedians **Steve Scarfo**, **Kyle Crawford** and **Dan Crohn**, with shows at 7:30 and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$35. Or (3) Celebrate with the 21+ spectacle of **Life's a Drag**, hosted by Karisma and Larissa Montes at 10 p.m. This hilariously filthy event comes with a Champagne toast. This drag show features New England's fiercest entertainers.

Tickets are \$30.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

First Day Hikes are a long-running tradition at New Hampshire's State Parks. Seven parks will host hikes today. This year's participating parks include Milan Hill State Park, Monadnock State Park, Northwood Meadows State Park, Odiorne Point State Park, Pisgah State Park, White Lake State Park and, new to the list, Pawtuckaway State Park. Participants will be greeted with warm beverages and snacks around a cozy fire, along with a

limited supply of New Hampshire State Parks-themed giveaways, including a special 90th-anniversary calendar and stickers. Register at nhstateparks.org/things-to-do/first-day-hikes-2025.



Save the Date! Thursday, Jan. 9

Disney on Ice presents **Mickey's Search Party** at SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com) with shows Thursday, Jan. 9, and Friday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 11, at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 12, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$18 through ticketmaster.com. Visit disneyonice.com/mickeys-search-party.

One Last Drag Show for 2024

tonight at 7 p.m. This full-blown show will feature performances by Glamme Chowder, Luke Laroe, ChiChi Marvel, Obscura Freakshow, and Baddie Longlegs. This is a 21+ event, with a \$10 cover.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

There are three ways to celebrate the new year at Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888, chunkys.com).

Saturday, Dec. 28

The world-famous **Harlem Globetrotters** will take to the court at SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com) today with shows at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$35 through ticketmaster.com.

Saturday, Dec. 28

To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, 836-6947, tosharebrewing.com) will host

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A year of exhibits and performances

Local arts experts talk about 2024 and what's getting them excited for 2025

Compiled by Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

I asked members of the local arts community what they were most proud of in 2024 and what they were looking forward to in 2025.

• **Fallon Rae**, co-founder and owner of Pillar Gallery + Projects, 205 N. State St., Concord; pillargalleryprojects.com, 657-8111: “We are so proud of our last juried open call exhibition, “NANO”... where we included over 60 artists and over 100 works of art in our 200-square-foot space.... We worked on showcasing our maximalist curatorial approach with concurrent themes that reflect, express and relate to the larger conversations in artists’ worlds and how they mirror one another....”

“The next exhibition we are excited about is “Currents” (Feb. 9-April 2, with a reception on Feb. 23). This show focuses on contemporary interpretations of the ocean, waterways, and reflections on the changes we are facing as a collective. ... Some of the artists include Mary Mead, Jackie Brown and Hannah Perinne Mode, amongst others, with 5 percent of sales going to Blue Ocean Society...”

• **Dan Pelletier**, Artistic Director, Cue Zero Theatre Company, cztheatre.com: “Personally, most proud work this year had to be our June production *William Shakespeare’s Long Lost First Play (abridged)*. We were blessed with three incredibly talented performers taking on over 12 characters each, a wonderful costumer, a fanatic stage crew, and we created something truly special. We had a rehearsal environment of everyone wanting to give better than their best, and audiences left dying of laughter.”

“Assuming my upcoming wedding doesn’t count as a production, then I’ll have to say my 2025 production which I am most excited for is *People Like To Be Scared: an Exploration of Fear*. This piece is scheduled Oct. 3 through Oct. 5 and will be our third main stage devised piece. The actors will come into the beginning of the rehearsal process with no script, only a concept of wanting to explore fear from many different angles...”

• **Zackery Betty**, Artistic Director, NSquared Dance, nsquaredance.org: “NSquared Dance’s *The Lavender Scare*, June 27 at The Rex Theatre. This was a pinnacle moment to share the story of The Lavender Scare, a mass firing of federal government workers due to their sexual orientation as a threat to America in the 1950s.

...We paired with New Hampshire Dance Collaborative and Manchester True Collaborative for this performance.”

“[For 2025,] NSquared Dance’s return to The Rex Theatre on May 4, 2025!”

• **Elizabeth “Betsy” Craumer**, Creative Ventures Gallery, 411 Nashua St., Milford, creativeventuresfineart.com, 672-2500: “The performance I’m most proud of is our ability to get the students into the right class to start or continue their art journey. This includes networking with others in the art field to help with their next step. I’m also proud to help students progress in their artwork.”

“For 2025, I guess my goal is to get a little more involved with town activities ...”

• **Jen Sakash**, Member of the Granite State Choral Society (20 Allen Street, #1431Rochester; gschoralsociety.org): “We are currently celebrating our 50th anniversary of the choir. This December we had our first concert as part of that year-long celebration: “Winter’s Embrace: Celebrating 50 Years of Peace and Joy.” ...

“In the spring (May 2025) we will complete our anniversary year by performing more popular pieces from over the years, such as Broadway show tunes and patriotic pieces.”

• **Matt Cahoon**, Artistic Director, theatre KAPOW, 66 Hanover St., Suite 101, Manchester, tkapow.com: “While 2024 has been a very productive one for theatre KAPOW, I think the show we are most proud of is our September production of Aaron Posner’s play *Life Sucks*. ...Our cast was full of longtime collaborators and that made every rehearsal feel extra friendly and comfortable.”

“I am really excited for *Every Brilliant Thing*. I love that play and all of Duncan Macmillan’s plays! It’s a one-person show that we will be presenting in February at the BNH Stage and the Winnepesaukee Playhouse. I think it is exciting for theatre KAPOW fans because it is probably the most audience-interactive piece we have ever produced and we are doing it with two of theatre KAPOW’s most stalwart performers, Carey Cahoon and Peter Josephson. ...”

• **Meme Exum**, owner, Glimpse Gallery, Patriot Building, 4 Park St., Concord, theglimpsegallery.com, 892-8307: “Each exhibit is special in its own way so that’s a super hard question to answer. Tied six ways for favorite, of the six shows we had in 2024.

“I’m looking forward to the Feb. 9-March 9 show.”

• **Irene Cohen**, President, New Hamp-

shire Theatre Alliance, nhtheatrealliance.org: “We had our first Awards show after the pandemic with over 800 people in attendance!”

“We are gearing up for our 20th Anniversary award show for Saturday, Feb. 1!”

• **Jason Hackler**, manager and co-owner, New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St., Milford, nhantiquecoop.com, 673-8499: “So my favorite exhibit of 2024 is this one [‘Light & Brush: Luminous and Tonal Paintings from the 19th Century to Present’].”

“In 2025 we are going to be working on an exhibit called ‘Selections 25,’ which will be 25 works that will showcase the curated collection of 25 paintings and sculptures spanning the 19th through 21st century. We believe it’s going to probably launch in June.”

• **Amy Fortier**, Director, Ballet Misha, 84 Myrtle St., Manchester, balletmisha.com, 668-4196: “Ballet Misha really enjoyed our collaboration with theatre KAPOW last July for an outdoor performance of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* as part of the Dana Center’s Shakespeare on the Green Series at Saint Anselm College. It is always fun to perform outside, and the performances coincided with a stretch of really lovely summer weather. The experience gave my dancers some unique challenges as some of them had lines, and typically dance is an artform that expresses itself without spoken words. Theatre KAPOW was really great to work with and I loved watching the dancers and actors get increasingly comfortable with each other...”

“In 2025, Ballet Misha will start its 17th year of bringing professional dance in New Hampshire. We are bringing back our March concert after a one-year hiatus, so I am excited about that. It will be at the Audi in Concord on Saturday, March 29, and I love that theater.”

• **Margherita Giacobbi**, Executive Director, The Players’ Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, playersring.org, 436-8123: “I think the production I will pick as the one that has made us most proud is *America America*, written and directed by Joan Bigwood. It’s the story of a Colombian house cleaner, Modesta, who enters the life of the wealthy (but dysfunctional) Porter family in Palo Alto and creates an unexpected and all but straightforward friendship with the other female character, Jane Porter... the playwright realized how critical it was that the play be written in two languages, English and Spanish (as Modesta speaks barely any English and a lot of the misunderstandings, humor and drama indeed come from



Ryan Swedenborg Winks Series from See Saw Art. Courtesy photo.

this linguistic and cultural disconnect), ... we embarked in the thrilling experiment of incorporating subtitles in the play, which ended up looking almost like operatic super-titles projected on the walls of the stark and fancy Porters’ house.”

“For 2025 ... I am very excited about *Gruesome Playground Injuries* by Rajiv Joseph, running Feb. 28 through March 16.”

• **Elizabeth Pieroni**, Volunteer Executive Director, Mosaic Art Collective, 66 Hanover St., Suite 201, Manchester, mosaicartcollective.com, 512-6209: “My favorite show from 2024 is a tie between our ‘Full Circle Speed Of Light’ in September and our Halloween show ‘Spellbound.’ Both of these two shows exceeded my expectations on the quality work that came in and really knocked my socks off from a curatorial perspective. All of the work spoke to each other in such incredible ways.”

“I’m most looking forward to our next show in February, titled ‘Illusions.’ It’s going to be a different show for us in general because it will be art that deals with optical illusions or blacklight reactive glow. But also further out we have a really exciting show planned for the summer called ‘Palettes to Palates’ that I’ve been working on in the wings with John Fladd from the Hippo. It should be a tasty treat for the eyes and the tummy!”

• **Amy Regan**, owner and operator, See Saw Art, 66 Hanover St., Suite 201, Manchester, seesaw.gallery: “In 2024, See Saw Art produced 13 exhibitions, worked with 140 artists and exhibited 668 pieces of art. I am really proud of ‘Heatwave,’ our February 2024 exhibition, which featured both regional and international artists and was a really beautifully installed and interactive exhibition. ‘Group Effort,’ our annual August community-focused open call, ... Lastly, ‘Threads,’ our July exhibition focusing on textile artworks, was very well-received and very fun!”

“In 2025, I am excited to continue to produce monthly exhibitions that highlight local talent and bring incredible fine art to Manchester ... January will feature selections from Brunswick, Maine-based artist Ian Trask’s ‘Strange Histories,’ which are vintage slide viewer artworks — simply stunning!”

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ARTS

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Still time for *Carol*:** Head to the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org) to catch the last few shows of *A Christmas Carol*, which will still be running there 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. Tickets cost \$39 to \$45.

• **Cook and Kettner exhibit:** “Caterpillar,” featuring works by Emma cc Cook and Em Kettner, will be on display at Outer Space (35 Pleasant St., Concord) through Saturday, Jan. 18. Emma cc Cook graduated with a BFA in painting from University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and studied at the Angel Academy in Florence, Italy, according to the event page. Cook often combines dark paintings on canvas with abrupt insertions of walnut sticks, textural variations and intriguing thematic ventures that are inspired by rural American West landscapes and the broad discourses surrounding identity, history, environment and erasure, according to the website. Outer Space will donate 5 percent of its profits from any sales of her work to a nonprofit of the artist’s choosing,



Red Oval series by Emma cc Cook.

according to the same website. Visit outerspacearts.xyz. The gallery is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to its Facebook page.

• **Are you choral curious?** Join the Granite State Choral Society for their 50th anniversary season as they are **recruiting new members** throughout January for the spring concert season. No audition is required and all are welcome to join who have an interest in singing and learning, according to a press release. The current members have a range of ages and are based in New Hampshire and Maine, according to the release. On Sundays, Jan. 12, and Jan. 19, prospective members may stop by to meet members, ask questions, and express interest in joining, and new members are welcome to attend rehearsals starting at the beginning of each season on Sundays from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at First Church Congregational (63 S. Main St., Rochester). Visit gschoral-society.org.

Art Exhibits

• **“A Celebration of Light”** Two Villages Art Society (846 Main St. in Contoocook; twovillagesart.org) is holding its 2024 Winter Members Show and Sale, “A Celebration of Light,” through Saturday, Dec. 28.

• **“Big Gifts Come in Small Packages”** The Seacoast Artist Association (130 Water St., Exeter) presents its themed group show “Big Gifts Come in Small Packages” through December. Artists are challenged to create beautiful and affordable work, with each piece priced at no more than \$100. 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 Shows

• ***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.

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

• ***Disney’s Beauty and the Beast Jr.*** presented by the Majestic Academy of Youth/Teens (majestictheatre.net) at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway, Derry) on Friday, Jan. 24 through Sunday, Jan. 26.

• ***Every Brilliant Thing*** presented by Theatre Kapow on Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. at Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com). Tickets cost \$33.75, \$26.75 for seniors and students.

Classical

• **“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, ccanh.com). Tickets cost \$37. See symphonynh.org.

• **Eroica Inspirations** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra will present a program featuring Michael Torke’s “Bright Blue Music,” Rachmaninov’s “Variations on a Theme by Pagnini” and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 “Eroica” on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem). Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$10 for students and \$5 for Salem students. See nhphil.org.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

With new shift controller options, it's all a matter of taste



By Ray Magliozzi
I am a 72-year-old woman who drives a 2011 VW Jetta with a 5-speed manual transmission. I LOVE my car! Eventually, I will need a new car and am thinking about a hybrid SUV. I have test-driven a Honda CR-V (liked it) and a Toyota Corolla Cross (too small). When we looked at a Kia Sportage, I was surprised by my visceral, negative reaction to the rotary gear shift dial. My husband was shocked when I told him that was a dealbreaker. I told him I couldn't go from a manual gear shift to a flimsy little twist knob. What is your opinion of the rotary gear shifts? What would be the best hybrid SUV for me? — Nancy

I don't particularly care for rotary gear shifters, personally, Nancy. But mechanically, or in terms of durability, there's nothing wrong with them.

Automatic transmissions used to be shifted by cables. You'd move the shift lever from Park to Drive, and the lever would actually pull a cable attached to the transmission. But now, automatic transmissions

are all electronically controlled. So all a shifter has to do is send a signal to the transmission controller.

That means you no longer need to use a lever that moves a cable. You can use almost any kind of switch. And, in fact, we are seeing a variety of shift controllers now. I've driven Hondas and Lincolns with push-button selectors. And I've shifted Chryslers and Hyundais with rotary controllers.

And, mechanically, they all work fine. The advantage of these compact controllers — besides styling distinction — is they take up a lot less space inside the cabin. That means the designers can use that extra space for things customers might want more—like storage bins, phone charging pads or Italian espresso makers.

What I don't like about the newer controllers is that they require you to look at them to use them. I can put an old-style automatic shifter into the right gear with my eyes closed. Or, more importantly, with my eyes on the road. That becomes useful when you need to shift quickly back and forth between, say Drive and Reverse. So, if you're making a multi-point U-turn in traffic or you're navigating into a tight parking space, I find the

lever more useful.

That said, I admit I got used to the rotary controllers pretty quickly. I still can't say the same about the push-button shifters. But it's

your car, Nancy. And if it's a dealbreaker for you, don't buy it. With hundreds of cars on the market, "I don't like it" is all you have to say. [Visit Cartalk.com](http://Visit.Cartalk.com).

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

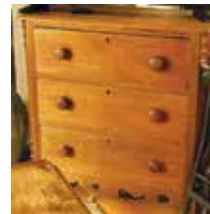
*Dear Donna,
 Before we replace our TV stand. I would like to know if there is any value to it. It came from my uncle's camp. We've had it for many years. Now renovating and seem to have no space for it.*

*Any information would be appreciated.
 Bob*

Dear Bob,
 Your sweet three-drawer cottage pine dresser from the late 1800s looks to be in great shape. It must have been really taken care of.

Most cottage pine dressers were painted with floral designs at one point. Or some were even given more elaborate designs. Then they were stripped down to the pine as time went on.

The three-drawer piece was most likely part of a larger set including bed, chest with



mirror, nightstand etc. For now, though, Bob, I think you still have a piece that could be useful almost in any room today. Such charm and warmth to it.

The value is in the range of \$150+ but for usefulness it's priceless to me!

I hope this was helpful and maybe you can find another use for it in your home or find a new home for it.

Thanks, Bob.
 Donna

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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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

New Year's Eve, family-style

- **Cowabunga's** (725 Huse Road in Manchester, cowabungas.com) will hold a family-friendly New Year's Eve bounce party from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a confetti countdown every two hours. Tickets for kids cost \$20 for a two-hour playtime. Cowabunga's will also be open New Year's Day and offer a special New Year's craft, according to the website.

- **Altitude Trampoline Park** (360 DW Highway in Merrimack; altitudemerrimack.com) will hold a New Year's Eve party on Dec. 31 with a balloon drop at noon plus prizes and giveaways, according to the website. Altitude will close at 3 p.m. on Tuesday; see the website for admission options.

- The Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will help parents, children and extended families "ring in 2025 together while the sun is shining" at the Museum's **Family New Year's Eve Celebration** on Tuesday, Dec. 31. The countdown to "midnight" will be held at 10:30 a.m. during the morning play session and at 2 p.m. during the afternoon play session. Tickets are \$13, free for kids under the age of 12 months. The museum will be closed the following day but open Thursday, Jan. 2, through Sunday, Jan. 5, for regular hours.

- The Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 225-8670, concord-nh.gov/1983/Library) will host a **Noon Year's Eve Party** on Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ring in the new year at noon and celebrate with light refreshments and a special toast. Recommended for newborns to elementary school-age kids. RSVP via the Library website.

- **First Night Portsmouth** will feature fireworks at South Mill Pond on Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 7:30 p.m. See proportsmouth.org for maps with parking and street closures and other information.

- **Remix Skate and Event Center** (725 Huse Road in Manchester; skateremix.com) will hold an all-ages New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to midnight. Single tickets cost \$30 and include skate rentals, a swag bag for the table and a confetti countdown, according to a post on Remix's Facebook page, where you can find a link to purchase tickets.



A NH legend

- In partnership with NH PBS, the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Drive, Concord, starhop.com, 271-7827) will be showing the documentary film *Christa* in the planetarium theater daily Thursday, Dec. 26, through Wednesday, Dec. 31, at 1 p.m.. General admission cost applies but no additional fee is required for the showings. The 27-minute film celebrates Christa McAuliffe's legacy. "Through interviews with former students, New Hampshire dignitaries, and educators, she is remembered as a teacher who believed that ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things. As the first woman and educator to be commemorated with a statue on the New Hampshire Statehouse lawn, Christa remains an inspiration to the next generation of dreamers and achievers," according to the Center's website. The center is open from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on these days. Admission costs \$13 for adults, \$12 for 62+ and ages 13 through collage, \$10 for ages 3 to 12 and free for kids 2 and under.

Games and glow

- In addition to your *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*, *Moana 2*, *Wicked* (sing along screenings start on Thursday, Dec. 26) and *Mufasa* screenings, **Chunky's** (707 Huse Road in Manchester, chunkys.com) has some family fun on the schedule. On Friday, Dec. 27, at 6:45 p.m. it's family-friendly **theater candy bingo**. Tickets cost \$10 plus fees and include a \$5 food voucher plus a box of candy that goes in the pot. On Sunday, Dec. 29, at 4 and 7 p.m. **comedy illusionist Ben Pratt** will perform (Chunky's gives the show a "PG-13" rating).

- **Krazy Kids** indoor playground (60 Sheep Davis Road in Pembroke; krazykids.com) will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from Thursday, Dec. 26, through Wednesday, Jan. 1, expect for Friday, Dec. 27, when the playground closes at 5:30 p.m. and then reopens from 6 to 9 p.m. for **Glow Night**. Tickets for Glow Night cost \$20 for kids, \$5 for adults. See the website to purchase tickets in advance.



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FOOD

Chicken and smashburgers

The food crowd discusses the yummiest parts of 2024

Compiled by John Fladd
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News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
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• **More tequila for Manchester: Vallarta Tequila Bar** (827 Elm St., Manchester, 836-3106, vallartamexicannh.com) has opened on Elm Street in Manchester, in the former location of XO Restaurant. This is the newest venture from the family that owns the Puerto Vallarta and Nuevo Vallarta Mexican restaurants. In a Facebook post, the family said the new bar/restaurant will boast more than 100 tequilas.

• **Two new Brazilian markets: Via Brazil Market Place** (42 Bridge St., Manchester, and 419 Amherst St., Nashua) has just opened a new store in Manchester, and will open one in Nashua within the next week or so. The stores will carry Brazilian grocery items, chocolates, household and beauty products, and more.

• **Meatballs: Rock 'n Roll Meatballs** (179 Elm St., Manchester) will have a pre-opening party Saturday, Dec. 28. It is the latest venture from Kevin Cornish, the operator and owner of KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net). In a press release, Cornish wrote that "guests can expect a variety of flavors, from classic Italian to spicy and exotic, six different meatballs all served with a selection of delectable sauces and sides." The restaurant will open formally in January.

• **Farewell: What The Pho!** (836 Elm St., Manchester), an Asian fusion restaurant and Tiki bar, has closed after just a few months of operation. During its short time on Elm Street, it gained a reputation for inventive cuisine and outstanding cocktails.

• **A new location for Silk City:** The historic **Silk City Diner** has a new home. As reported by WMUR in a Dec. 11 online article, the diner was transported by truck on Tuesday, Dec. 9, to its new location at 24 S. Main St., "next to the Concord Food Co-op and the Bank of New Hampshire Stage." According to a Dec. 16 online story in the Concord Monitor, it has an anticipated opening date of July 1.

• **Library Mocktails:** The Goffstown Public Library (2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstownlibrary.com) will host a **mocktail tasting**, Saturday, Dec. 28, from 11 a.m. to noon. Participants will be able to sample a selection of handcrafted, batched non-alcoholic drinks. Each guest will take home recipe cards. Registration is required.

I asked area food professionals to look back at 2024 (in terms of the best thing they ate all year) and look ahead at 2025.

• **Emma Stetson**, owner, Wine on Main, 9 N. Main St., Concord, 897-5828, wineonmainnh.com: "The best thing I drank was a bottle of Kistler Sonoma Coast 'Les Noisetiers' Chardonnay. ... [T]hey only make about 300-400 barrels of it each year. It's perfectly round and creamy with flavors of ripe green apple, citrus, and hints of baking spice. The best thing I ate was all of the fresh seafood in Northern Portugal! We visited for a week this summer.

"I'm most looking forward to getting new wines from Quinta Nova, an estate in Portugal that we visited this past August. ..."

• **Julie Lapham**, CEO and co-founder of Popzup Popcorn (Canal Street Mill, 22 Canal St., Suite 358, Somersworth, 314-8314, popzup.com): "The best thing I ate last year was the Wild Mushroom Toast at the Carriage House Restaurant [in Rye]. In 2025, we are really looking forward to our



Smash Burger with Cheese at GravyTrain Food Truck. Courtesy photo.

new 70-calorie-size popcorn snack bag in Butter Me Up and Cheddar Head flavors.

• **Angie Lane**, Director of Red River Theatres (11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org): "I love the Crown Tavern and I love their fries. And they have really great pizza. But if I'm staying in Concord, I think the overall best thing I had this year was this really great fish dish at Revival Kitchen and Bar, but I think it was a special

... The broth was so delicious"

"[In the next year] we're changing up our concessions a lot, trying to especially carry something for younger kids ... it's really fun to discover what they love, like gummy worms."

• **Tee Hoang**, co-owner, Poké BonBon, 1000 Elm St., Manchester, inside across from Hop Knot, 232-2464, pokebonbon.com: "My favorite new chicken place is USA Chicken and Biscuit [in Manchester]. I go there and just get their chicken wings, just basic chicken wings. They are salty and beautiful. They're crispy on the outside but so juicy on the inside. They're the best chicken wing place."

• **Sean Hallinan**, co-owner of The Burstin' Kernel Kettle Corn, facebook.com/theburstinkernel: "I'd have to say the smashburger from the Gravy Train food truck."

"We actually started a food truck this fall so that will be our next adventure this coming year; it's called Chew 'N' Screw (facebook.com/chwnscw). We have licenses in Manchester and Nashua and we're getting up and running so that's kind of our thing."

• **Lin Theth**, Chef, Street, 76 N. Main St.,

Food trends noted in the past year's Chef Spotlights

Compiled by John Fladd

Jillian Bernat, Bar Manager at Greenleaf (54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com): "I think **gin and agave spirits** are still holding strong..."

Emilee Viaud, Executive Pastry Chef of Greenleaf and Ansanm in Milford and Pavilion in Wolfeboro, owner of Sweet Treats by Emilee (facebook.com/EmileesSweetTreats): "**Croissants stuffed with chocolate chip cookie dough**. I haven't had one yet but hope to get one soon; almost every bakery has jumped on making them."

Corey Fletcher, Chef and owner of Revival Kitchen and Bar (11 Depot St., Concord, 715-5723, revivalkitchennh.com): "Supporting **small/micro producers** — from honey, baked goods, coffee roasters, restaurants, for example. Consumers continue to be selective about where their money is spent and they want to support people's dreams and stories, rather than spending it at chains, etc."

Andy Day, Chef and owner of Cask & Vine (1 E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, cask.life/cask-and-vine): "**Scaling back**. It's been weird in the restaurant world for a while, and everyone seems to be trying to deliver the most bang for your dollar, or doubling down on fresh, local at a higher price. Two very different approaches."

Erika Follansbee, food photographer at Parker Street Food and Travel (715-7027,

parker-street.com): "There is an emphasis on **authenticity in food photography**, which can mean a less staged and not over-styled approach that doesn't hide imperfections..."

Griffin Star, Bartender, 815 Cocktails & Provisions (815 Elm St., Manchester, 782-8086, 815nh.com): "There's been an increase in people who have been hopping on the **mocktail** train, which has been cool to see. ... I have definitely seen bartenders around the state upping the quality and care they put into their mocktails, because everyone deserves to have a good time out."

Addie Leader-Zavos, Pastry Chef and co-owner of Eden's Table Farm (240 Stark Highway North, Dunbarton, 774-1811, edenstablefarm.square.site): "I'm really impressed with how New Hampshireites are coming together to improve opportunities for **small farms and home-based food businesses** right now. Last year HB 119 was passed, making it easier for small farms to have certain types of meat processed locally. ... HB 1565 was passed, which makes it possible to sell pickles made in a home kitchen. ... This trend of creating more opportunities for people who want to participate in the local food economy really benefits everyone who loves good food, so I hope we'll see more of it"

Keith Sarasin, chef and cookbook author: "People are seeking out quality restaurants and food. From pizza to Indian, people are seeking

to **try new things** and it is really encouraging."

Joe Savitch, owner/operator of Creative Kones Food Truck (301-5182, creativekones.com): "**Authenticity — and freshness**. With so many restaurants cutting back staff in favor of digital tablets and ordering, I see many customers just looking for an authentic interaction and ordering experience. On top of that, they are looking for fresh ingredients. Most customers are interested in hearing where we get our various products — the ice cream, maple syrup, soda, etc."

Eric Alexander, Chef de Cuisine, Unwined (1 Nashua St., Milford, 213-6703, unwinednh.com) "**Hyper-local sourcing** is a trend that I am seeing. A lot of restaurants are trying harder to support their local farmers."

Evan Lang, co-owner/Baker, Dishon Bakery (915 Elm St., Manchester, 600-1773, dishonbakery.com): "There is a big push to use **local ingredients** here. I see local eggs, meat, dairy and beer in a lot of eateries. I think that's really commendable"

Denise Nickerson, owner of The Bakeshop on Kelley Street (171 Kelley St., Manchester, 624-3500, thebakeshoponkelleystreet.com): "**Doughnuts** are one of the biggest food trends that's been around in New Hampshire. People are getting very excited as we go into the fall flavors of pumpkin, spice and apple cider."



Crispy Rice Cake at Street. Courtesy photo.

Concord, 333-2125, streetfood360.com: “I would say honestly the rice cake on our menu, just because it’s so simple, but the crispiness of the rice is just such a satisfying texture to eat. So you get crispy and chewy...”

“In 2025, food-wise, I think for myself, I just want to have a little bit more fun with food. I think after Covid a lot of people kind of lost that. I don’t really see too many people in the industry getting as excited as they used to. I’m hoping to find that for myself as well.”

• **Richard Tango-Lowy**, Master Chocolatier, owner, Dancing Lion Chocolate, 917 Elm St., Manchester, 625-4043, dancinglion.us/cacao: “I would say the Tranquilidad Estate beans ... are making insane chocolate. And I was fortunate to be with a gentleman who discovered those wild in the rainforest in Bolivia in 2009 or so. And he tasted it and he said it was the best ... that he has ever tasted. It made our hearts warm.”

“[In 2025] I am looking forward to some amazing new cacao beans that we’ve got coming in. There’s a lot of it, really rare. We’re working with a small farm in Vietnam that’s growing heirloom cacao.”

• **Mara Witt**, owner, Honey Cup Cafe & Tearoom, 150 Bridge St., Manchester, 836-6008, honeycupnh.com: “Our chef Amanda

made a waffle out of our day-old croissants. She made a waffle! It was amazing.”

“Next year, I want to try more teas ... I’ve been going through my own tea list and I’m starting to really get into the different flavors.”

• **Dave Hood**, co-owner, Old Boy’s Butcher Shop, 707 Route 101, Merrimack, 699-8014: “The best food has always been Buckley’s Great Steaks [in Merrimack] to me. We always go there on our anniversary and it’s just so meaningful. I always get rib-eyes.”

“[During the next year] I’m hoping for prices to go down. Inflation has been through the roof. Buying wholesale beef is very, very expensive; we’ve got to get thrown a bone somewhere.”

• **Stephanie Errett**, owner of Dutch Epicure Bakery, 141 Route 101A, Amherst, 879-9400, dutchepicurebakery.com: “...I did have a lavender gin martini. I do not remember where it was from, but I have to say that that was a delicious drink that I really enjoyed and I’ve also tried to recreate numerous times and just haven’t been able to do it.”

“Next year, I’m interested in seeing more herb-infused items. ... You have lavender

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2025 food events

Here are some food events slated for the new year:

• **New England Winter Wine Spectacular** (nhwineweek.com) The culmination of New Hampshire Wine Week is the New England Winter Wine Spectacular, which features hundreds of wines for tasting. It will take place this year on Thursday Jan. 23.

• **Steel Chef Challenge** (nhfoodbank.org/steelchef) Chef Marcus Samuelsson will return as host on Saturday, March 15, at 6 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Manchester. The event benefits the New Hampshire Food Bank. Tickets cost \$150 general admission, \$250 VIP.

• **Maple Weekend 2025** (nhmapleproducers.com) Visit sugarhouses throughout the state and taste the sweet harvest on Saturday, March 15, and Sunday, March 16.

• **Taco Tour** (tacotourmanchester.com) This is Manchester’s biggest food event of the year. Tens of thousands of hungry taco fans descend on downtown Manchester each May to eat tacos prepared by local restaurants and businesses.

• **NH Poutine Fest** (nhpoutinefest.com) This event takes place at the Anheuser-Busch Biergarten in Merrimack in October but sign up for their updates to find out when tickets go on sale in the summer as they sell out within hours.

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Champagne send-off

Where to enjoy your final meal of 2024

Compiled by John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Has spending the holidays with your family inspired a deep appreciation of restaurant dining? Here are some area restaurants that will be open on **New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31** (and a few also offering New Year's Day events):

- **815 Cocktails & Provisions** (815 Elm St., Manchester, 782-8086, 815nh.com) celebrate the new year with a **Rodeo Ball** from 8 p.m. to midnight. Put on your cowboy boots, fringe and bedazzled attire for a night filled with music, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, burlesque by Siren of the Circle, magic by Benjamin, an unlimited photobooth and more. Tickets are \$140 through eventbrite.com.

- **Alan's of Boscawen** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.toast.site) is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. **The Freddy Partridge Band** performs beginning at 8:30 p.m. Tickets for the band are \$20.

- **Artisan Hotel at Tuscan Village** (17 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-8450, marriott.com) will host a four-course **Dueling Piano Dinner Show** from 7 p.m. to midnight in the hotel ballroom. The Flying Ivories will perform throughout the evening. Enjoy light bites at 10 p.m., and after the event head outside to catch a fireworks display at midnight. Tickets are \$300 at tuscanbrands.com. There will also be a **NYE Party and Fireworks Show** at the Veranda at the Artisan from 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Enjoy an evening filled with music from the DJ, exclusive views of the midnight fireworks show, and special featured entertainment; enjoy a variety of food stations, including a raw bar, truffle gnocchi, scallops wrapped in bacon and more. Tickets are \$240 each at tuscanbrands.com.

- **Averill House Vineyard** (21 Averill Road, Brookline, 244-3165, averillhousevineyard.com) will celebrate from 6:30 to 9 p.m. with three events. You can enjoy **Dinner in an Exclusive Private Vineyard-themed Igloo for Four** or in Averill House's **Private Gazebo**. Dinner includes a wine pairing and five preset Brazilian courses. At 9 p.m. (midnight in Brazil) there will be a toast to the new year. Tickets (for four people) are \$399. There will be a more conventional **Inside New Year's Eve Dinner** in the dining room, which will also feature a five-course Brazilian dinner with wine pairings. Tickets are \$89 each. Purchase tickets through the Vineyard's website.

- **The Barley House** (132 N. Main St.,

Concord, 228-6363, thebarleyhouse.com) will offer specials such as prime rib, lobster tail and sticky toffee pudding from 5 to 9 p.m.

- The **Bedford Village Inn** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 472-2001, bedfordvillageinn.com) will serve a **four-course prix fixe dinner**. The cost is \$110 per person, and seating times are from 5 to 9:30 p.m. There will also be a **New Year's Day brunch** served Wednesday, Jan. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the dining room, the BVI's original restaurant. Visit the Inn's website.

- **The Birch on Elm** (968 Elm St., Manchester, 836-1958, birchonelm.com) invites you to a **New Year's Eve night of elegant indulgence** beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$200 through eventbrite.com and include unlimited passed appetizers, a raw bar, two drinks, and a Champagne pour when midnight nears.

- **Buckley's Great Steaks** (438 DW Highway, Merrimack, 424-0995, buckleysgreatsteaks.com) will be open for dinner from 4 to 9 p.m. Dinner specials will be posted at facebook.com/BuckleysGreatSteaks. Reservations are recommended.

- **Cask & Vine** (1 E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, cask.life/cask-and-vine) will celebrate its 12th anniversary, which is coincidentally New Year's Eve, with an **I'd Hit That Fiesta**. There will be a collection of curated beers along with a tequila toast, pinatas and more. Reserve your spot with a \$25 deposit through the Cask & Vine website.

- **The Grazing Room at the Colby Hill Inn** (33 The Oaks, Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) will present a **New Year's Eve Sparkling Dinner** from 7 to 10:30 p.m. (Overnight guests can continue to celebrate until midnight.) It will be a five-course dinner with sparkling and still wines. The cost is \$190 per person. The following day there will be a **Back to the '80s Brunch**. Dress as you were in the '80s. The cost is \$45 per person, which includes a round of your choice of mimosa, bloody mary, signature mocktail or honey-grapefruit martini; starter buffet and hot (by order) entree choices feature shrimp & avocado shakshuka, steak & eggs, chocolate-stuffed French toast or house-cured lox eggs Benedict.

- **Copper Door** (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, or 41 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033, copperdoor.com) is accepting dinner reservations on until 9 p.m. and will close at 11 p.m. New Year's Day will be regular business hours.

- **Cotton Restaurant** (75 Arms St., Man-



chester, 622-5488, cottonfood.com) will serve its regular menu from 5 to 8:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

- Ring in the new year at the **Derryfield Country Club** (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 669-0235, derryfieldgolf.com) from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. with the **Chad LaMarsh Band**. There will be high-energy dance music, spanning tunes from the '60s to current tunes in genres ranging from classic rock, rap, metal and pop dance. Tickets are \$30 through eventbrite.com.

- **Evolution Bistro and Bar** (930 Elm St., Manchester, 836-3970, evolutionnh.com) will serve a special **New Year's Eve tasting menu** from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m.

- **Firefly Bistro and Bar** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) will serve its regular menu from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Dec. 31, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 1

- The **Flying Goose Brew Pub & Grille** (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) will be open for its regular business hours, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- **Fratello's Italian Grille** (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) will be open from 4 to 9:30 p.m. There is a link to the menu for the evening posted on the Fratello's website.

- **Gauchos Churrascaria Brazilian Steak House** (62 Lowell St., Manchester, 669-9460, gauchosbraziliansteakhouse.com) will be open from 7 p.m. to midnight.

- There will be a **New Year's Eve Dinner** at **Greenleaf** (54 Nashua St., Milford, 213-5447, greenleafmilford.com) with multiple seatings, starting at 5 p.m. It will be a multi-course prix fixe menu for dinner including a celebratory glass of bubbles, amuse bouche and special bread service. There will be wine pairings available for an additional fee. Menu accommodations for allergies or dietary restrictions are available

upon request at time of reservation. Tickets are \$125 each, also through Greenleaf's website.

- **LaBelle Winery Amherst** (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com) will host a **Masquerade New Year's Eve Party** from 7 to 10:30 p.m. This celebration is the ultimate full package with a three-course plated dinner, and dancing to a live performance by the Freese Brothers Big Band. Dress your best and get ready to dance the night away. Tickets are \$99 each through the Winery website.

- All **La Carreta Restaurants** (North End Shops at 545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 628-6899; 1875 S. Willow St., Manchester, 623-7705, 172 Hanover St., Portsmouth, 427-8319; 139 DW Highway, Nashua, 891-0055; Derry Meadows Shoppes, 35 Manchester Road, Derry, 421-0091; Londonderry Commons, 44 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 965-3477, lacarretamex.com) will be open for regular business hours. On Jan. 1, the Hooksett Road restaurant in Manchester will be closed for a private event, the restaurants in Portsmouth, Derry, and Londonderry will open at 2 p.m., and the Nashua location will be open during regular business hours.

- **The Lucky Moose Casino & Tavern** (16 Gusabel Ave., Nashua, 864-0175, lucky-moosecasino.com) will offer a New Year's Eve dinner special from 5 p.m. until the kitchen closes at midnight featuring three courses for \$41.99

- **Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House** (393 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5975; 494 Elm St., Manchester, 644-3535, murphystaproom.com) will be open on New Year's Eve. There will be **live entertainment** in the Manchester location, and **comedy** at the Bedford restaurant. Both restaurants will offer a Champagne toast.

- **New England Tap House Grille** (1292

Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 782-5137, tap-housenh.com) will be open for regular business hours, 4 to 10 p.m.

• **O's Steaks & Seafood** (11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925, osteaksconcord.com) will open at 4 p.m. and take reservations until 10:30 p.m.

• **PastAmore** (103 Route 101A, Amherst, 578-9696, pastamorerestaurant.com) will serve a set menu from noon to 9 p.m. It will be closed on Jan. 1.

• **Pembroke Pines Country Club** (45 Whittemore Road, Pembroke, 210-1365, pembrokepinescc.com) will host its second annual **New Year's Eve Party** from 7 p.m. until midnight. There will be live music, comedians, a dinner buffet, dancing, a midnight Champagne toast and more. Tickets are \$125 each at pembrokepinescc.com/1759-events.

• There's a **NYE Bash in The Grotto at The Prime at Sky Meadow** (Sky Meadow Country Club, 6 Mountain Laurels Drive, Nashua, 888-9000, skymeadow.com) beginning at 8 p.m. There will be a complimentary Champagne toast and a la carte food. Tickets are \$25 through the Sky Meadow website. There is a 48-hour cancellation policy.

• **Second Brook Bar & Grill** (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 935-7456, secondbrook.com) will serve its regular menu from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Dec. 31, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Jan. 1.

• **Shaskeen Pub** (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) will hold its annual **New Year's Eve Bash** from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be an open bar,

a free buffet, a free Champagne toast, and music by Dj Myth. Tickets are \$60 through Ticketleap.com.

• **Surf Restaurant** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com) will be open from 4 to 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day.

• All locations of **T-Bones Great American Eatery** (25 S. River Road Bedford, 641-6100; 404 S Main St., Concord, 715-1999; 39 Crystal Ave., Derry, 434-3200; 77 Lowell Road, Hudson, 882-6677; 1182 Union Ave, Laconia, 528-7800; and 311 S. Broadway, Salem, 893-3444, t-bones.com) will close at 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve and will be open during regular business hours on New Year's Day.

• The **Tomahawk Butchery & Tavern** (454 DW Highway, Merrimack, 365-4960, tomahawktaVERN.com) will serve its regular menu from 5 to 10 p.m. on Dec. 31; it will be closed on Jan. 1.

• **Union Public House** (194 Main St., Nashua, 699-8112, union-nh.com) will serve its regular menu from 4 to 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

• All **Vallarta Restaurants** (Puerto Vallarta Mexican Grill, 865 Second St., Manchester, 935-9182; Nuevo Vallarta Mexican Restaurant, 791 Second St., Manchester, 782-8762; Vallarta Tequila Bar, 827 Elm St., Manchester, 836-3106, vallartamexicannh.com) will be open during regular business hours on New Year's Day. Nuevo Vallarta will be closed on Dec. 31. The other restaurants will close at 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve. 🍷

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scones now, rosemary things and things like that. I'm always excited to see how we cross over the savory and the sweet sides of everything."

• **Tom and Leah Bellemore**, owners of Vine 32 Wine and Graze Bar, Bedford Square, 25 S. River Road, Bedford, 935-8464, vinethirtytwo.com: "What's fresh now is In Sheep's Clothing. ... It's a cab [cabernet sauvignon]. ... It's super-smooth; it's got some like vanilla notes at the end. It's a '22 from the Columbia Valley.

"Next year, we're really looking forward to doing more wine and food pairings."

• **Lauren Collins-Cline**, owner of Slightly Crooked Pies, slightlycrookedpies.com: "We had decided to treat ourselves, and we went to Bricco in Boston. My husband and my sister both ordered braised wild boar with pasta. ... I ended up picking off both their plates all night."

"I'm trying to decrease my sugar intake in general, so this next year I want to ... get to the point where I look forward to a salad as much as dessert."

• **Michael and Rachel Mack**, owners

of Loon Chocolate, 195 McGregor St., No. 121, Manchester, 932-8887, loonchocolate.com: "[The best thing I ate last year was] our Maple Crunch Bar. It's craft chocolate that still reminds you of that homey feeling of the chocolate that you get as a kid, plus it was a collaboration with Ben's Sugar Shack..."

"[For 2025] I really look forward to the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen and the Deerfield Fair. Those two events are always just super fun. In fact, it's the whole fair season; it's so quintessentially like New England."

• **Omar Abuzaid**, owner, Al Basha Grill, 379 S. Willow St., Manchester, 391-5613, albashamedgrill.com: "Just last week a friend of ours invited us to Surf Restaurant [in Nashua]. It's the second on the top of their menu. [Lobster Kristina] ... It was really good!"

"[In 2025] I'm definitely looking forward to a Moroccan dish, pastilla — a seafood pastilla. My wife makes it but it's very time-consuming." 🍷

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FOOD

JOHN FLADD COOKS

Rum Cake

This recipe is adapted from one that was published in a Bacardi advertisement from 1976. It holds up.

- 1 cup (133 g) finely chopped roasted, salted pecans
- 1 box (375 g) yellow cake mix
- 1 3.4-ounce package instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup (225 g) milk
- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ½ cup (225 g) dark or black rum



Rum cake. Photo by John Fladd.

(The pan's crevices, that is. Yours are your own business, and beyond the purview of a cake recipe.)

Bake the cake for about an hour, or until the center reaches 200°F. Remove it from the oven and let it cool in the pan for 15 or 20 minutes.

Invert the cake onto a plate. I like to rise up on my toes, then jerk

the pan and plate downward with some force. You should be rewarded with a soft thump.

Carefully remove the Bundt pan to make certain everything turned out well (literally, in this case), then replace the pan on the cake, and re-invert it, so that you are looking at the bottom of the cake.

With a wooden skewer, stab the cake 100 times, then set it aside while you make some rum syrup.

Rum Syrup

- ½ cup (1 stick) butter
- ¼ cup water
- 1 cup (198 g) sugar
- Another ½ cup (225 g) dark or black rum

In a small saucepan, probably the same one you used earlier, bring the butter, water and sugar to a boil. Boil it for another five minutes, then remove it from heat. Let it cool a few minutes, then stir in the rum.

Slowly pour about half the rum syrup over the cake. Give it a minute or two to absorb into the cake through all those holes you poked, then pour the rest of the syrup over it.

Set the cake aside for an hour or two to completely integrate the rum syrup, then re-re-invert it onto a serving plate.

Rum cake goes exceptionally well with not-very-sweet coffee or tea. The sweetness and moisture of the cake makes a clean contrast with a hot beverage. The rumminess makes a good contrast to the hard work and disappointment in your life. 🍷

Preheat oven to 325°F.

In a small saucepan, brown the butter: Over low heat, melt the butter, and stir or swirl almost constantly until it turns brownish gold, a tawny color, not unlike a lion. Remove it from the heat, and let it cool to room temperature. Strain it to remove the milk solids you've so cleverly rendered out.

Use a large spoonful of butter to grease the inside of a Bundt pan. If you have experienced the heartbreak of a Bundt cake not coming cleanly out of its pan, and ripping itself into pieces; if you are intimidated by Bundt pans; if you have young children you do not want to expose to intemperate language — there is a solution: absurd amounts of butter. Wash your hands, and really slather the butter on, hitting every corner and crevice. Make certain you give special attention to the central column. If you feel like you have buttered it enough, you need to add more. Obsessive over-indulgence is the order of the day here.

Sprinkle your finely chopped pecans across the bottom of the Bundt pan. This will be the top of your cake.

In a large bowl, combine all the other ingredients, including your browned butter. Stir the mixture until there are no dry bits or lumps, then pour it into your waiting Bundt pan. Use a silicone spatula to transfer all of it.

Thump the pan on your countertop with authority. Give the cake batter a good, hard stare to let it know that you aren't fooling around, then give it a couple more solid thumps. This will make sure that all the batter has been seated into your carefully buttered crevices.

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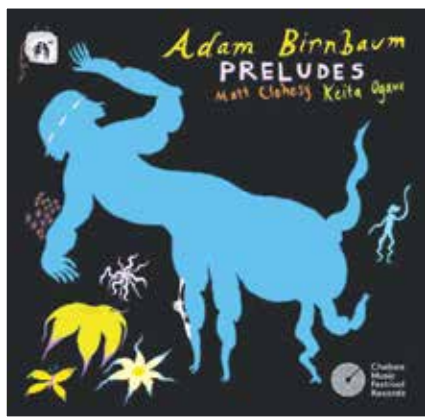
Kristian Montgomery and the Winterkill Band, *Prophets of the Apocalypse* (self-released)



When last we left Cape Cod-based bandleader Montgomery I was on the verge of anointing him the Tom Petty of New England, but that feels a little inadequate; local achievement is generally regarded by the public as almost meaningless in comparison to national success no matter the level of enthusiasm from hometown wags. I mean, he's been nominated for some pretty notable awards, including a (nationally renowned) Josie and a Boston Music Award in 2021, which somehow led to his having beef with the committee owing to his disgust for their lack of recognition for blue-collar artists. He's a rebel,

this guy, and has a ton of working-class cred. In this EP he blends Petty with Florida Georgia Line in the timely blue-collar protest song "American Fire" and country-fies early Kings Of Leon in "Leaving Texas." He's a legitimate badass, folks; I literally had to troll him into letting me hear this record in advance, a very rare thing with hungry local bands. Please support this man. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Adam Birnbaum, *Preludes* (self-released)



This one's a year old now, but the fellow who's helping to promote this world-class pianist is trying to break into the upper echelons of the music business, and he's a nice guy, so here goes. This album spotlights a piano, upright bass and percussion trio taking on a formidable set of Johann Sebastian Bach's compositions, along the way adding elements of jazz, Latin, swing and straight eighth-note, taking liberties with feel and improvisation. There are YouTube videos of these cool customers going at it, and it's quite a sight; Matt Clohesy playing his bass after a showy, Jaco Pastorius fashion; percussionist Keita

Ogawa looking quite comfortable and Birnbaum appearing as if he'd literally invented the piano he's playing. "Prelude in Db Major" bops right along most ambitiously, all but stripped of its classical nature; "Prelude in C Major" retains much of the latter but does eventually settle into a light, piano-bar groove. Terrific stuff. A+ —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• At this writing, Genius.com tells me there are only two new music albums scheduled for traditional Friday release this week, on Dec. 27, two days after the big pagan holiday, whatever it's called. No, I'm kidding, I know it's called "Christmas," but according to a popular meme that made the rounds this holiday season, Christians once actually tried to get rid of Christmas at one time, wouldn't that have been a bummer? No, seriously, according to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' website, "In 1659, the Massachusetts Bay Colony enacted a law called Penalty for Keeping Christmas. The notion was that such 'festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries' were a 'great dishonor of God and offence of others.' Anyone found celebrating Christmas by failing to work, 'feasting, or any other way ... shall pay for every such offence five shillings [This would be about \$48 today].'" The Commonwealth eventually came to realize what a dumb idea that was, and by 1681 all the witch-burning pilgrims could watch the Grinch again, but even today some musical artists couldn't care less if it was Christmas or National Possum Day or whatever, they insist on putting out albums. For example, there's **Jorge Rivera-Herrans**, a mildly popular playwright, composer, lyricist and actor from Dorado, Puerto Rico. His new record, *Epic: The Ithaca Saga*, is a po-faced concept album that was released on Christmas; it includes a song called "God Games" that's racked up more than six million views on YouTube. It comprises opera-based techno-driven nonsense that's actually kind of brilliant in a technical sense, and a lot of people like it, so I suppose there's a chance he'll someday become some sort of male version of Enya for Greek mythology wonks. I mean, I fully expect never to hear anything from him again unless I'm at a sci-fi convention or somesuch, but weird things happen all the time.

• Also on Christmas, K-pop band **2NE1** released a 15-track album titled *Welcome Back*, which commemorates their ongoing (four years and counting) tour of the same name. Their bouncy, brainless Lady Gaga-style stuff borrows from all sorts of international styles and features a lot of sexytime butt-dancing and all the other stuff that's been portending the collapse of Western civilization since 2005 or so.

• In normal album-release news, this Friday sees the release of the second album from **Harshmxjb** (real name Harsh Mishra), a musician from New Delhi, India. This feller is a typical underground culture-jammer, a 19-year-old who's been exploiting the open-door policy of Spotify, Apple Music and all the other music sites, uploading hip-hop tunes like "Alone," in which he sings off-key, like a brain-damaged Usher, over a melancholy, non-awful piano-driven beat (that song actually got some love on TikTok and YouTube).

• We'll wrap up the week with an album that's neither silly, performatively epic nor K-pop, a new one from singer **Robbie Williams**, whom you know from British boyband Take That, which was originally triangulated by conniving record company lizard-people as the U.K.'s answer to New Kids on the Block. That was a long time ago, of course; Williams has been a solo art-fraud since 1995, not that American audiences have paid much attention to him, but regardless, the new LP is *Better Man (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)*. Given that the movie is about Williams' career, he was probably a good choice to soundtrack it; these things aren't difficult to figure out. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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***Time of the Child*, by Niall Williams** (Bloomsbury, 287 pages)

Irish novelist Niall Williams' latest book is *Time of the Child*, which revisits the fictional town of Faha, where much lauded 2019 book *This is Happiness* and another Williams novel, *History of the Rain*, are set.

It is a holiday novel in that the events take place during the season of Advent and involve lots of holly and a child born under mysterious circumstances. But nothing is lost by reading it in January, and in fact, that timing is possibly better since *Time of the Child* is a slow-cooker of a book, best read at a leisurely pace. Nothing moves very quickly in Faha, where one of the residents is a dog named Harry whose favorite place to sleep is the middle of the road, requiring drivers to wait for the mutt to move, "in dog-time and untellable weariness," before they can proceed.

It is that sort of delightful detail that makes Williams such a pleasure to read.

The central characters in this story are a widowed doctor, Jack Troy, and his adult daughter Ronnie (for Veronica), who live at a pace that moves not much faster than the town dog. Troy is 59 and is pretty much going through the motions of life, having lost both his wife and another woman he had fallen in love with after his wife's passing. As Faha's only doctor, Troy has little time for despair, though; he is constantly beset with people bringing him their physical complaints, and those of others, everywhere he goes.

Ronnie is his faithful companion and professional assistant, the budding loves of her past unrealized and her two sisters having left town. ("Why would anyone want to live here? ... It's just rain and muck and beasts?" one sister had said.) Father and daughter dwell mostly in companionable silence as they go to Mass at the local Catholic church — where the pastor is slowly slipping into dementia in front of his congregation — and they make house calls throughout the region, visits for which Troy may or may not be compensated.

Enter the child — an abandoned infant, seemingly lifeless, brought to Troy by a 12-year-old boy who found her by a church gate. Dr. Troy is able to resuscitate the baby, and he and Ronnie quickly become attached to her — observing his daughter care for the infant, the doctor realizes, "It was not second nature to her, it was first."

The presence of an infant changes everything in the household — Ronnie takes on a



glow foreign to her father, and in a particularly poignant scene, she watches her usually emotionless father dance to Sinatra holding the baby. "What had come over him was as old as life on earth — a pulsed response to another, outside of and even before the existence of reason, a prime and primal engagement that took its continuance from

the expression in the baby's features. She liked it! And that was everything."

They are reluctant to relinquish her to the state, which has a poor track record of taking care of children and the elderly (which is the same reason that Troy is so protective of the clearly failing priest), but they also know they cannot keep the child hidden — in Faha, "the lid never stayed on a story."

And so, casting about desperately for a solution, Troy concocts a scheme to keep the child — the logistics of which also involve the doctor correcting a sin of his past — sending away a young man whom Ronnie had loved years ago. This man, named Noel Crowe, is now living in America, complicating things. (Readers of *This is Happiness* will recall Noel from that earlier book.)

Like Harry, the weary canine king of Faha blocking traffic in the street, Williams is in no hurry to get where he's going; the first half of *Time of the Child* is character development that can frustrate readers who want things to happen. It's not unusual for dialogue between characters to be interrupted by one or two pages of incidental information before Williams brings us back to the conversation, which a reader might have reasonably thought had ended.

It's not until the baby arrives more than a hundred pages in that the pace picks up, and then the narrative moves almost too quickly. But Williams knows what he's doing, and the richness of detail, which might seem unnecessary at times, bestows an intimacy with the characters that pays off — not only the father and daughter and priest, but other residents of the town, including the boy who finds the baby on the day of the town's Christmas fair, Jude Quinlan, and the adult twins that the townspeople had given up on identifying correctly, so they just combined their names and call both of them Tim-Tom.

It requires commitment to read *Time of the Child* — not only because you'll want to read slowly to savor the writing, but because for all practical purposes, you'll be a citizen of Faha when you're done, emotionally anyway. Which means you'll be reading *This is Happiness* and *History of the Rain* next — not a bad way to while away the gloom of winter. **A** —Jennifer Graham 🍷

Books of the future

Here are some scheduled 2025 releases book-lovers can get excited about.

- ***Simply Jamie: Fast & Simple Food*** by Jamie Oliver (Jan. 7) Jamie Oliver generally permits such cheats as jarred sauces and "cook everything in one pan no really just the one pan." This book promises recipes such as Gochujang Chicken Noodle Bake and Jarred Pepper Pasta.

- ***Old School*** by Gordon Korman (Jan. 14) Middle grade author Korman returns with this novel about a 12-year-old who has lived half his life at his grandmother's retirement village where he has been home-schooled and schooled in music and culture by the other retirees and now has to attend a kid-filled middle school, according to the book's description.

- ***Hope: The Autobiography*** by Pope Francis (Jan. 14) It's the first autobiography ever published by a pope!

- ***Onyx Storm*** by Rebecca Yarros (Jan. 21) This third novel in the *Empyrean* series (*Fourth Wing*, *Iron Flame*) set in a military college for dragon riders has the author on a big-city book tour and readers signing up for midnight release parties at bookstores.

- ***Source Code: My Beginnings*** by Bill Gates (Feb. 4) One of the world's richest men writes about his early years, before he co-founded Microsoft. "I'm planning to write two more memoirs, one about my work with Microsoft and one about philanthropy," he says at gatesnotes.com. "But Source Code is my origin story, and I'm looking forward to sharing it."

- ***Three Days in June*** by Anne Tyler (Feb. 11) It's a new Anne Tyler novel, her 25th. In this one, "a socially awkward mother of the bride navigates the days before and after her daughter's wedding," the publisher says.

- ***The Art of the SNL Portrait*** Photography by Mary Ellen Matthews (March 4) The 50th anniversary of *Saturday Night Live* marches on with this book of images from the show's bumper photos featuring hosts and musical guests, according to the book's description.

- ***I Survived the Great Molasses Flood, 1919*** (the Graphic Novel) by Lauren Tarshis, illustrated by Karen De la Vega (March 4) If this graphic novel series is how you introduce your kids to historical events, check out this one set in Boston.

- ***Sunrise on the Reaping: A Hunger Games Novel*** by Suzanne Collins (March 18) This second prequel is set after *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* but before the original trilogy and focuses on the Hunger Games of Haymitch Abernathy.

- ***When the Moon Hits Your Eye*** by John Scalzi (March 25) He won a Hugo award for *Redshirts*, he was creative consultant for the *Stargate* TV series, and now

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Pop-you-lar

A look at 2024 at the movies

By Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippopress.com

I was sort of bummed out about the whole movie-going experience in 2024 and then I saw *Wicked*.

I'm not a *Wicked* person, in the sense of owning the cast album or having seen a stage production. And has there been too much *Wicked* everywhere with everything? Yes, totally. But this candy-colored musical brought something I felt was generally lacking in 2024: a fun time at the movies. Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande are a great team — both are solid with the songs, have good chemistry as an enemies-to-friends duo and are good at the tone of this fairy tale with darkness around the edges. It's a long movie but doesn't feel like a slog and it is worth putting on your shoes and silencing your phones to see this in a theater, where the colors and whimsy will get their proper scale. With the numbers of local movie screens dropping in 2024 (RIP to Chunky's theaters in Nashua and Pelham, Regal in Concord and AMC in Londonderry), it was good to feel excited about being in a theater. *Wicked*, which is still in theaters, will get a release of a special sing-along version on Dec. 25.

But *Wicked* wasn't the only thing making me feel upbeat about movies.

• **The “Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)” Award for making me feel positive things about a superhero franchise:** That would go to *Deadpool + Wolverine* (for rent and streaming on Disney+). If I think about the whole Ryan Reynolds thing or watch extended trailers for this movie, I feel sort of exhausted. But in the midst of the movie, watching *Deadpool* and *Wolverine*/Reynolds and Hugh Jackman, both just so game, I kind of couldn't help having fun. Also, I enjoyed the goofy 20th Century Studios-Marvel cameos and how that universe was egg-white-foam folded into the Mar-

vel Cinematic Universe proper. I even had a moment of “aw, cute” during the credits, which used the aforementioned song, to give that world its sendoff.

• **The exact right kind of dumb:** Recently, I watched *Carry-On*, a Netflix movie seemingly going for low-budget *Die Hard*. It was perfect — wheeee! — in the way that only an action movie that doesn't take itself seriously but also doesn't goof off can be. *The Beekeeper* (rent, purchase and on MGM+) is similarly such a movie. It stars Jason Statham saying “I protect the hive” a bazillion times as he punches dudes who stole money from the nice Phylicia Rashad, who was letting him live on her farm (keeping bees, it's a whole theme with him). Did you have a tough week? Pour yourself a tall glass of *The Beekeeper*.

• **Also fun:** “Sexy tennis” was not a thing I ever thought or thought I needed in my life but then I saw *Challengers* (rent, purchase, Prime Video and MGM+), which is soapy silly fun with the trio of Zendaya, Mike Faist and Josh O'Connor.

• **The M3gan Award for funniest horror:** *Abigail* (rent, purchase and Prime Video) features a bunch of random criminals brought together in a creepy old house to do the simple job of kidnapping one little girl and keeping her alive and unharmed until her father pays the ransom. The trailer gives away both what will make this a challenge and a hoot.

• **This horror movie has no stakes! (complimentary):** I did not have high hopes for *A Quiet Place: Day One* (rent, purchase, Paramount+ and MGM+); the trailer doesn't give you much and it's not really a story plugged into the main *Quiet Place* universe. But as we get to know Lupita Nyong'o's character the movie becomes a whole unexpected thing, with a whole different approach to what counts as stakes and what the big bad truly is. It's great! Very much not what you expect from a prequel/

sidequel.

• **Horror movies doing a thing:** These streamers might not work as big-budget, big-screen outings but I feel like the scale of TV allows them to focus on one element of their horror-ness and really amp it up. *Woman of the Hour* (streaming on Netflix), directed by and starring Anna Kendrick, is scary not for anything specific that happens in the movie but for the way it perfectly captures the “how do I keep this man at a bar/job interview/dark parking lot/apartment common area from killing me” anxiety of women in so many circumstances. *Hold Your Breath* (Hulu/Disney+) is set during the Dust Bowl but it has real pandemic-era vibes with how danger is in the air and how that plays with the mind of a woman who has already lost one child and is trying to protect the other three. *Don't Move* (Netflix) is a suspenseful movie about survival. *House of Spoils* (Prime Video) has Ariana DeBose maybe going mad from the haunted house where she is trying to start up a trendoid fine dining restaurant or maybe the toxic chef culture or maybe it's the strange greens from the garden possibly planted by a witch? Either way, it's a fun time of a horror movie that kind of morphs into something else.

• **Character-forward:** Lily Gladstone in *Fancy Dance* (Apple TV+), Joan Chen and Izaac Wang in *Didi* (rent, purchase and Peacock), Danielle Deadwyler and John David Washington in *The Piano Lesson* (Netflix), and everybody in *Rez Ball* (Netflix) and *Thelma* (rent, purchase and Hulu/Disney+) turn in great performances in solid movies that all blend comedy and drama, family relationships and people trying to figure out who they are now.

• **Honorable character mentions:** Wobbly movies can still have barnburning performances. Check out Jodie Comer going big with the hair and the accent work in *The Bikeriders* (Prime Video, rent or purchase). Kerry Washington (and the real life story) wins you over despite some shakiness in *The Six Triple Eight* (Netflix). Chris Hemsworth feels like the only person really having fun with the sandy craziness of *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* (Max, rent or purchase). But the “making his own fun, baby!” prize for this year truly goes to Denzel Washington in *Gladiator II* (in theaters).

• **Animation!** *The Wild Robot* (for purchase) is full of animal hijinks and it's a tear-jerking look at parenthood — plus so lovely! *Transformers One* (rent, purchase and Paramount+) is a neat prequel of the Transformers universe we know and also a clever story about the ways people (er, trans-



Wicked

forming robots) respond to injustice. **Big City Greens The Movie: Spacecation** (for purchase and on Disney+) is a sweet story about family and it's a musical and it's in space and it has an early *The Simpsons* level of high joke density. *Inside Out 2* (Disney+ and rent) mostly avoids the lessening effects of a sequel and turns in a really interesting look at what happens when anxiety (and Anxiety, as voiced by Maya Hawke) takes the wheel.

• **The Once Upon a 1980s Time at the Movies Nostalgia Award:** Kevin Smith gives us his *The Fabelmans* with *The 4:30 Movie* (rent or purchase), a very cute riff on the filmmaker as a young goofus.

• **The usual caveats:** There are, as always, like a whole slew of late season movies I haven't seen yet — in theaters now *Flow* and *Mustafa: The Lion King*; Christmas Day releases *Nosferatu*, *A Complete Unknown*, *Babygirl* and *The Fire Inside*; *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl* (Netflix on Jan. 3); thus-far only limited release films like *Nickel Boys*, *Nightbitch*, *The Return*, *The Brutalist*, *September 5* and now-harder to find movies like *A Real Pain* (Forbes.com reported it should be on VOD on Dec. 31). There are several awards attention-garnering movies that we can all catch up on now — *Anora* (rent or purchase), *Emilia Pérez* (Netflix), *Memoir of a Snail* (rent or purchase), *Heretic* (rent or purchase), *We Live in Time* (rent or purchase), *Maria* (Netflix), and *Here* (rent or purchase).

• **Real world:** Martha Stewart would be a fun person to three-martini-lunch with, is my takeaway from *Martha* (Netflix), her documentary where she offers crisp observations about everything from her romances to her legal woes. In *Will & Harper* (Netflix) longtime friends and comedy co-conspirators Will Ferrell and Harper Steele road trip across America in this documentary about friendship, the never-ending journey of figuring yourself out and Harper's desire to travel to the middle America places she's always loved and see if, as she says, they will love her back now that she's out as trans. The song about friendship Kristen Wiig sings at the end might actually be one

Hopeful about 2025

All dates extremely approximate.

• **Dog Man** (Jan. 31) Dav Pilkey's books are a treat. My kids are excited for this movie — and I agree!

• **Love Hurts** (Feb. 7) Ke Huy Quan plays a former criminal enforcer turned mild-mannered real estate agent.

• **Black Bag** (March 14) Steven Soderbergh gives us sexy spies Michael Fassbender and Cate Blanchett.

• **Mickey 17** (April 18) Bong Joon Ho's new movie features a promising cast —

Robert Pattinson, Toni Collette, Mark Ruffalo, Steven Yeun — and a goofy-fun sci-fi premise.

• **Thunderbolts*** (May 2) I can't help it — Marvel's kickoff to summer featuring Florence Pugh and David Harbour in their *Black Widow* characters looks like it has the potential to be scruffy fun.

• **28 Years Later** (June 20) That trailer, featuring Rudyard Kipling's poem “Boots,” is creepy-great. I am officially excited for the third of Danny Boyle's zombie movies.

of the sweetest things in movies this year. In *Piece by Piece* (purchase), Pharrell Williams not only tells his life story but also is able to illustrate his relationship with music via the use of Lego animation.

• **Just some really great movies:** In *Janet Planet* (Max, rent and purchase) Julianne Nicholson and Zoe Ziegler are an unconventional but loving mother-daughter pair. In *My Old Ass* (Prime Video), an 18-year-old Maisy Stella meets her 39-year-old Aubrey Plaza-self with bittersweet passage of time and yet very funny results. *The Substance* (Mubi, rent or purchase) features a very good Demi Moore performance and a

very funny bit of body horror about beauty standards. *His Three Daughters* (Netflix) features absolute top-shelf performances by Natasha Lyonne, Elizabeth Olsen and Carrie Coon as three sisters gathered for their father's final moments — but it's funny and smart and a well-crafted story about family and grief. And then there's *Conclave* (Peacock and for purchase), just an absolute delight about clashing ambitions at a Vatican gathering to pick a new pope. 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 25

he's back with a novel about the moon actually being made of cheese.

• **The Choi of Cooking: Flavor-Packed, Rule-Breaking Recipes for a Delicious Life** by Roy Choi with Tien Nguyen and Natasha Phan (April 15) Sample pages feature Kimchi Steak Tacos and Lo Mein Spaghetti — which paints a picture of the approach of this chef who is serious about food but not fussy about rules. In the meantime, check out Choi's MasterClass, which has a commendable amount of swears.

• **Great Big Beautiful Life** Emily Henry (April 22) The #1 NYT Bestselling author of *Beach Read*, *People We Meet on Vacation* and other contemporary romances gives us a fresh

competitors-to-lovers tale.

• **Matriarch: A Memoir** by Tina Knowles (April 22) She's a fashion designer, a business-woman, and mom to Beyonce and Solange. Is it any wonder her new memoir comes in at 448 pages, longer than the Pope's and Bill Gates'?

• **Mark Twain** by Ron Chernow (May 13) The Pulitzer-winning biographer (*Washington: A Life*) comes out with 1,200 pages on the life of the 19th-century humorist, steamboat pilot and writer.

• **My Friends** by Fredrik Backman (May 20) Teenagers and art and a cross-country journey from the author of *A Man Called Ove* and so many other novels, whose Instagram you should check out for more self-deprecating humor and German shepherd antics. 🍷





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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Jazzy time:** Recover from the holidays with the **Hall of Mirrors**, an improvisational jazz quartet led by guitarist Randy Roos, who's received Emmy nominations for his television scores. With piano player Steve Hunt, bassist Mike Rossi and Tim Gilmore on drums, their musical telepathy has been described as "spontaneous composition rather than free jazz." Thursday, Dec. 26, 6 p.m., Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery, 72 Main St., Meredith, \$15 and up at eventbrite.com.

• **In harmony:** Though it's an ambitious if not impossible tribute task, **Forever Simon & Garfunkel** does an impressive job. Sean Altman (Rockapella) met Jack Skuller when he was a teenager; they sang "Mrs. Robinson" together and found an immediate chemistry. The show traces the history of the duo from their "Hey Schoolgirl" debut through "Bridge Over Troubled Water." Friday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$35 and up at palacetheatre.org.

• **Tribute power:** For a sense of how convincingly **Rotten Apple: A Tribute to Alice In Chains** does its job, listen to praise from people like Chad Olech, a front-of-house engineer who toured with AIC in the late 2000s. "Brings back the feeling of being at one of those amazing shows," he said. The band performs on a double bill with Manchester rockers Chasing the Devil. Saturday, Dec. 28, 9 p.m., Angel City Music Hall, 179 Elm St., Manchester, \$20 at eventbrite.com.

• **Year ending:** Three nights of music from Boston supergroup **Neighbor** includes a pair of brunches and culminates with a big New Year's Eve bash. Sunday, Dec. 29, through Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Stone Church, 5 Granite St., Newmarket, \$40 at portsmouthnhtickets.com.

• **Impractical laughs:** Fittingly, comedian **Joe Gatto** called his first special *Messing With People*, since he rose to fame with the *Candid Camera* stepchild *Impractical Jokers*. Since leaving the show a few years ago, he's hosted the *Two Cool Moms* podcast with fellow comic Steve Byrne and written a children's book, *Where's Beary?* A local show caps a three-month tour. Monday, Dec. 30, 7 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$30.75 and up at ccanh.com. 🍷

NITE

Looking back and forward

Recalling 2024, and looking ahead to next year

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

New Hampshire's music and comedy scene had a robust year. From start to finish, here are some of the highlights, along with some sad notes, followed by a peek at the year ahead.

In January, blues singer Bobby Rush came to Concord's BNH Stage for a concert. At 91 years old, Rush is a one-man rebuttal to ageism. He got his start as a thigh- and chest-slapping hambone performer, and the first record he released was a 78 RPM shellac disc.

The vibe continued in February at Manchester's Rex Theatre, as the annual Winter Blues Festival featured local harmonica player and singer Nick David's band celebrating a new album with support from some of his Texas label's other acts. Over in Portsmouth, embattled comic Kathy Griffin played the Music Hall in Portsmouth.

Blending elements of alt-country and harmony-rich classic rock, Slim Volume brought a breath of fresh air to the local music scene, releasing a trio of EPs and playing listening room shows like one in early March at The Livery in Sunapee. On St. Patrick's Day the rousing Rebel Collective inclusively played Celtic rock in an Italian restaurant.

Four days later, Mike Koutrobis filmed a special at Nashua's Center for the Arts, a high point for the hometown comic.

The laughs continued in April as Daniel Sloss brought his edgy act to Laconia's Colonial Theatre. Few can challenge an audience like the British comedian.

Carole King's *Beautiful* ran through most of May at Manchester's Palace Theatre, continuing a year-long theme, musicals centered on pop and the classic rock era. The Palace also had the ABBA/Disco revue *Dancing Queens* in January and the gritty *Jersey Boys* (also done by two other theater companies) in November.

Bike Week roared back to the Lakes Region, along with music, as karate-kicking blues rocker James Montgomery's band played during the June event. The summer shed season got in gear at Bank of NH Pavilion, highlighted by Hootie & the Blowfish and Collective Soul bringing a '90s vibe.

Badfish played its traditional Fourth of July concert at Casino Ballroom in Hampton Beach. In the wake of a Sublime reunion at Coachella, they're mixing more original songs into the tribute act. Nantucket comic Brian Glowacki brought standup to Beans &

Greens in Gilford for the first time.

Yoga, sustainability and music returned to Hillsborough in August as the Barefoot Festival's second iteration happened. Jimmy Dunn's Hampton Beach Comedy Festival is in its second *decade*; Dunn hung with his comedian pals and also celebrated his second season with the *Frasier* reboot.

Triptych, a collaboration between guitarist Stephane Wrembel and pianist Jean-Michel Pile, brought instrumental mastery to UNH in September, while percussive guitarist Senie Hunt played acoustic and electric tunes on a short tour and then headed back to Nashville.

In October, Everclear sold out the Music Hall with fellow '90s stars Marcy Playground and Jimmy's Chicken Shack, and Todd Rundgren explained why he's indifferent to his induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame prior to a Nashua show. Hell Beach made one of the year's best albums, *Beachworld*, and played it during a raucous Shaskeen show.

November began with Beatles disciple Moon Walker at BNH Stage and continued with Willie Nile rocking the Rex while showing that he's every musician's favorite musician for a reason. A year to the day after he headlined Nashua Center for the Arts for the first time, Drew Dunn was back. Later, the Nashua native hit the road with Dane Cook — again, again.

"I have learned a lot watching and working with Dane over the past few years," Dunn wrote on Facebook. "I am feeling more inspired and motivated than ever in this comedy pursuit. We always have a great time on tour, and I am lucky to call a guy I grew up listening to my friend."

December began with a reminder of New Hampshire's wealth of talent, as the winners of a talent contest sponsored by New Hampshire Music Collective performed a showcase at BNH Stage. The venue was



Jimmy Dunn. Courtesy photo.

good to NHMC all year long, with a few sold-out shows and regular crowds for its monthly series in the venue's lounge.

Overall highlights in 2024 included the opening of Pembroke City Limits, a listening room, bar and restaurant launched by music maven Rob Azevedo. Six months in, it's doing great. "We have been blown away by the response," Azevedo said in December, "Not only to the incredible talented musicians, but our dedicated audiences have exceeded our expectations."

Another new venue on the scene is Milk Street Studio in Dover, launched by musician and entrepreneur Kurt Eddins, with help from reggae guitarist/songwriter Sebastian Franks and custom guitar builder John Ayer. Shows began there during the summer and several are scheduled in the New Year.

Finally, the regional music community was stunned by the death of Brooks Young at age 42. The blues rock guitarist was in the middle of a string of successes, including tours with George Thorogood, Sammy Hagar and other rock greats, when his car was hit head-on in Alton on the morning of Nov. 8.

In other sad music news, beloved singer/songwriter Dave Mallett passed away on Dec. 17; he was 73. The Maine native performed regularly in New Hampshire. His "Garden Song (Inch By Inch)" was covered by Peter, Paul & Mary and Pete Seeger. Marty Stuart, Kathy Mattea, Alison Krauss, Emmylou Harris, and Hal Ketchum also recorded his songs. 🍷

Upcoming in 2025

Pembroke City Limits

Hickory Horned Devils, Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m.

Lee & Dr. G, Friday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

Vampire Bird (Will Kindler's new band), Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Milk Street Studio

M&D Acoustic Duo, Morrison and Congregation X, Friday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

The Writeful Heirs and Darien Castro, Saturday, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Lee & Dr. G + Catwolf, Saturday, Feb. 22,

6:30 p.m.

BNH Stage

Modern Fools, Slim Volume, Rachel Berlin, Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.

Rex Theatre

603 Songwriters in the Round – Miketon Graton, Ryan Jackson, Tristan Omand, Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Elias Kacavas and the Vanity, Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.



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Bourbon Street bubbly

N'awlins New Year in Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Mix the effervescent nightclub at the heart of *Moulin Rouge* with Dixieland style and light it up in a disco inferno for a sense of what will be happening at BNH Stage on the final night of 2024. *The Big Easy New Year's Eve* reprises elements that elevated two previous First Night events presented by Boston's Shuttavac Productions, while adding a few new ones.

The prevailing theme is dress to impress, Shuttavac's Beth McGurr explained recently. "New Year's is that day where it's easier to get people to participate; they want to come out," she said. "You can come in a tuxedo, a ball gown or in fishnets, and you'll feel comfortable, fun and vibrant."

As in previous years, there will be aerialists spinning from above, dancers on the main stage, and Boston DJ BegBick with a mix ranging from '70s disco hits to Chappell Roan, Dua Lipa, Lizzo and other modern acts, along with hip-hop and house. Also, as a projection screen provides visual effects behind the stage, "interactive cabaret acts" will perform.

"It's like the French Quarter; Moulin

Rouge meets Bourbon Street," McGurr said, noting that drag performers and dancers will do songs from the Broadway musical that began as a Baz Luhrmann jukebox movie. "The host has that charismatic thing going, with the suit and the little mustache."

Upstairs, the BNH Stage's Cantab Lounge will morph into a speakeasy, with entertainment provided by Catnip Junkies, a Providence, R.I., band that regularly does a show called the Bourbon Street Jubilee and bills itself as "the happiest, tappiest and brassiest band you'll ever hear."

Their performance is filled with comedic antics, along with tap dancing, tuba solos, group robot dancing, occasional roller skating and kazoo solos, injecting a New Orleans second line spirit into the First Night celebration. "They have a lot of fun with the horns and everything," McGurr said.

This will be the third New Year's event she's done in downtown Concord. The first was the lead-in to 2020, a year she had a number of other events booked that had to be scrapped due to the pandemic. Shuttavac returned to BNH Stage in 2022 to do a *Great Gatsby*-themed NYE party,



Catnip Junkies. Courtesy photo.

and McGurr is happy to be back for 2024.

"When they called me for this year, I was like, yes, 100 percent, sign me up," she said. "I love the venue. It's different for that area ... what's really cool is when you open it up and make it a ballroom, it's got this giant ceiling, these very evocative brick walls and a great stage. And you can change the whole room by changing the projection screen, which I love."

Party favors and a Champagne toast will accompany a midnight confetti blast to ring in the new year at the event, which is for ages 21 and up. There are two pricing tiers. General admission is \$50. VIP guests have access to the balcony and oth-

er amenities for an additional \$20. Prices for both levels will rise at the door

McGurr hopes to be back, and is considering ideas for a New Year's Eve 2025 bash, with an eye toward possibly using facilities in Art Alley, due to open in the spring, for the event. "I'm thinking of a *Casino Royale* theme or something like that," she said. "We try to change it each year." 🍷

The Big Easy New Year's Eve

When: Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

Where: BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord

Tickets: \$50 GA, \$70 VIP at ccanh.com

Where to bid farewell to 2024

New Year's Eve parties with music, dancing and more

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

There are many ways to mark year's end and ring in 2025, from an early dinner with music to a full-scale bash that ends with confetti blasts at midnight. Here's a list of options available.

815 Cocktails & Provisions (815 Elm St., Manchester, eventbrite.com) 8 p.m. \$140 — Rodeo Ball is this year's theme, with cowboy boots, fringe, and bedazzled attire encouraged for a night filled with music, passed hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, Siren of the Circle burlesque, Magic by Benjamin, unlimited photobooth and more.

Alan's (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631) 8 p.m. \$30 — Freddie Partridge Band plays dance music, preceded by a special NYE menu.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 4 (797 Court St., Keene, 352-9703) 7 p.m. \$25 — MV19 rocks in the new year, includes hors d'oeuvres, sandwich station,

midnight toast and party favors.

American Legion Post 47 (551 Foundry St., Rollinsford, 742-5833) 7:30 p.m. \$10 — Aunt Peg Band plays the hits at this party. Bring an appetizer to share; pizza will be served.

American Legion Post 6 (96 Islington St., Portsmouth, 436-7575) 8 p.m. — Karaoke with DJ Darlene.

American Legion Post 8 (640 Central Ave., Dover, 742-9710) 8 p.m. — Live music by Dancing Madly Backwards, full bar, food and snacks, dance floor.

Artisan Hotel at Tuscan Village (17 Via Toscana, Salem, tuscanbrands.com) 6 p.m. \$300 — Four-course dinner with Pear Burrata Salad, Surf & Turf and Chocolate Espresso Torte for dessert, followed by Dueling Pianos with The Flying Ivories, dinner kicks off at 7 p.m. (seating begins at 6 p.m.).

Ash Cigar Lounge (92 Route 125, Kingston, eventbrite.com) 7 p.m. \$50 — Red Carpet Hollywood Glam New Year's Eve Celebration with Frank Sinatra tribute

singer, cigar specials and midnight toast. Dress code: Hollywood Glam — red carpet elegance encouraged.

Ashworth by the Sea (295 Ocean Blvd., Hampton, 926-6762) 8 p.m. \$30 and up — Choose the laid-back Breakers Party or get dolled up for the Masquerade Gala with plated surf & turf dinner.

Auspicious Brew (2 Washington St., Dover, 953-7240) 9 p.m. \$15 at the door — all-ages house party with Citizen Kane and Liz Ridgely. Vinyl sets, dance hits, performance art and a community ritual to mark the end of the year.

Averill House Vineyard (21 Averill Road, Brookline, exploretock.com) 7 p.m. \$89 — Celebrate the new year on Brazil Time with a complimentary wine pairing and five-course Brazilian dinner.

Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, eventbrite.com) 8 p.m. \$50-\$70 — Moulin Rouge meets Bourbon Street as the Catnip Junkies perform in the lounge while DJ BegBlack spins a range of hits. Aerialists, drag performers, and a confetti

blast at midnight.

Belknap Mill (25 Beacon St., Laconia, 524-8813) 8 p.m. \$201 per pair — Mayor's Ball to support Belknap Mill with speakeasy theme, hors d'oeuvres, music, dancing and open bar.

Birch on Elm (968 Elm St., Manchester, eventbrite.com) 7:30 p.m. \$200 — an evening of elegant indulgence with unlimited hors d'oeuvres, raw bar, two drinks and bubbly when the ball drops.

BLEND603 (82 Fleet St., Portsmouth, eventbrite.com) 7 and 9 p.m. \$30 — Underground Comedy Club has two shows, each with a Champagne toast.

Brickhouse Restaurant & Brewery (241 Union Square, Milford, 672-2270) 7 p.m. — Recently reopened with a new name and theme, with beloved cover band The Slakas welcoming the new year.

Bridgewater Inn (367 Mayhew Turnpike, Bridgewater, 744-3518) 8 p.m. — Classic rock band Horsepower performs downstairs, with DJ Di upstairs spinning all night long. \$55 per person includes buffet

(8:30-10:30 p.m.) and party; hats and tiaras, noisemakers, beads and Champagne toast.

Buckey's (240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., Moultonborough, 476-5485) 9 p.m. — The tradition continues with the Red Hat Band performing.

Cercle National Club (550 Rockland Ave., Manchester, 623-8243) 7:30 p.m. — Potluck dinner and appetizers with Mixtape Heroez playing rock covers at this members club. Champagne at midnight.

Chop Shop (920 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-7706) 6:30 p.m. — The AC/DC Experience tribute band performs at this party.

Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 232-4794) 7 p.m. \$30 — at 7:30 and 9 p.m. it's a comedy show starring Steve Scarfo, Kyle Crawford and Dan Crohn. Separately, there's a drag show hosted by Karisma & Larissa Montes at 10 p.m. for \$30.

City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St., Manchester) 8 p.m. Party with The Trio.

Common Man (88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088) 6 p.m. — Singer-songwriter Karen Grenier performs an early set.

Copper Door (15 Leavy Drive, Bedford, 488-2677) 3 p.m. — Clint Lapointe plays from 4 to 7 p.m., and the restaurant stays open until 11 p.m., with a special menu: two-course \$76, three-course \$86 and four-course \$96.

Copper Door (42 S. Broadway, Salem, 458-2033) 3 p.m. — Jodee Frawlee plays from 4 to 7 p.m., and the restaurant stays open until 11 a.m., with a special menu: two-course \$76, three-course \$86 and four-course \$96.

Derryfield (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-2880) 7 p.m. \$30 — once again the Chad LaMarsh Band, a high-energy dance combo with male and female lead vocals, entertains with tunes from the '60s to now, with Champagne toast at midnight and party favors.

Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown (700 Elm St., Manchester, headlinersnh.com) 6 p.m. \$35 and up — Headliners Comedy with Will Noonan, Dan Crohn, Amy Tee, Tim McKeever, Annie Powell, Joe Espi and Dave Decker, also separate Dueling Pianos show, dinner/hotel packages available at headlinersnh.com.

Eagles Club (36 S. Main St., Concord, 228-8922) 8 p.m. — Dave Graham performs, prime rib \$15 per person and chicken cordon bleu \$12 per person, full bar, 50/50 raffle.

East Side Club (786 Massabesic St., Manchester, 669-1802) 9 p.m. — NYE party with DJ Keith.

Flying Monkey Movie House (39 Main

St., Plymouth, 536-2551) 7:30 p.m. \$35 and up — Cathedral offers the only tribute to Van Halen that performs both Roth & Hagar material in their setlist.

Fratello's (155 Dow St., Manchester, 624-2022) 5:30 p.m. — Tim Kierstead plays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Governors Inn Hotel & Restaurant (76 Wakefield Road, Rochester, 332-0107) 8 p.m. \$95 includes four-course dinner with prime rib buffet, along with dancing to classic rock and pop cover band Bad Penny.

Gusto (18 Main St., Center Harbor, eventbrite.com) 5:30 p.m. \$25 and \$45 — Italian dinner includes wild boar, papardelle and filet mignon with a dessert buffet and glass of Moscato to close the night. Ring in the new year early live from Italy.

Hen House (85 S. Main St., Newton, 382-1705) 9 p.m. — New Year's Eve Bash w/ Stumpy Joe Band again hosting the party, along with Diamond Edge and The Moonlighters.

Hermit Woods Winery & Eatery (72 Main St., Meredith, eventbrite.com) 7 p.m. \$95 and up — begin with passed appetizers, then enjoy jazz singer Ashley Warwick, accompanied by Paul Bourgeois, CJ Poole and Rick Erwin.

Homestead (641 DW Highway, Merrimack, 429-2022) 5:30 p.m. — Jeff Mrozek performs.

Kama Fly Fitness (250 S. Commercial St., Suite 3007, Manchester, eventbrite.com) 6:30 p.m. — New Year's Eve ceremony and sound bath to begin the new year with clarity, purpose and peace.

Keys Piano Bar (1087 Elm St., Manchester, 836-7796) 7 p.m. \$50 — Sequin Party with DJ music, on-stage dance and limbo contests, karaoke and other games. Ticket includes two premium drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a Champagne toast at midnight.

L Street Tavern (17 L St., Hampton, 967-4777) 9 p.m. — There's a party here, but details aren't available.

LaBelle Winery (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898) 9 p.m. \$120 — three-course plated dinner, followed by dance music from Freese Brothers Big Band, in its 42nd year of keeping the sounds of swing and classic Big Band music alive.

Lakeport Opera House (781 Union Ave., Laconia, 519-7506) 7:30 p.m. \$20 — Eric Grant Band plays top 40 hits, themed cocktails and midnight ball drop.

Loon Mountain (60 Loon Mountain Road, Lincoln, 745-8111) 6 p.m. \$40 — Grateful Dead tribute band Alligator Wine hosts this party, with hors d'oeuvres and a midnight toast included.

Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832) 8 p.m. — Rock Junk-

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ies play covers, as Shari and Malcolm share the stage with special guests Ken Stiles and Bill Janiero.

Martingale Wharf (99 Bow St., Suite W, Portsmouth, 431-0901) 6 p.m. \$20 special event fee for reservations after 8 p.m. as Michael Troy Trio and special three-course NYE menu served and late night bar food from 10 p.m. to midnight.

McCue's Comedy Club (580 Route 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, portsmouthnhtickets.com) 8 p.m. \$30 — Standup from Nick Gordon, Sara Poulin, Liam Hales and Jack Lynch.

Murphy's Taproom & Carriage House (393 Route 101, Bedford, eventbrite.com) 8 p.m. \$40 — Comedy show with Mark Riley, Jody Sloane, Bill Douglas and Jolanda Logan.

Murphy's Taproom (494 Elm St., Manchester, scampscomey.com) 10 p.m. \$30 — Comedy show in the back room with Eric Hurst, Klia Verwerdis, Bryan Muenzer and Tyler Hittner.

Music Hall Loft (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 433-3100) 7:30 p.m. \$42 and up — After outdoor First Night festivities, high-energy string band Rockspring performs, with a midnight Champagne toast.

Nan King Restaurant (222 Central St., Hudson, 882-1911) 5 and 8 p.m. Patty's Energizer Karaoke rings in the new year. Have dinner and sing your favorite song.

Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, etix.com) 7 p.m. \$39 — Juston McKinney's Year in Review returns to bid a laughing farewell to 2024.

Nova Arts/Brewbakers Café (48 Emerald St., Keene, eventbrite.com) 3 p.m. \$20 — Hug The Dog, a four-piece Granite State band, plays a unique fusion of indie rock, soul and lyrical rock.

Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588) 6 p.m. Recycled Percussion is again home for the holidays. Ring in 2025 with junk rock — two shows, 3 and 7 p.m.

Pats Peak Ski Area (686 Flanders Road, Henniker, 728-7732) 7 p.m. — New Year's fireworks at 9:20 p.m., ski, ride and tube (lifts open until 8:45 p.m.) and dancing to Dave & Wally in the Sled Pub from 6 to 9 p.m. No traditional NYE party this year.

Pembroke Pines Country Club (42 Whittemore Road, Pembroke, eventbrite.com) 9 p.m. \$125 — live music from Taylor Hughes, laughter with comedians from Mike's Comedy Club.

Penuche's Ale House (9 Pleasant St., Concord) 8 p.m. \$10 at the door — Power pop from Donaher, with New Norde, Lovewell and Jay the Barber.

Portsmouth Gas Light (64 Market St., Portsmouth, 430-9122) 9 p.m. \$50 and up — Midnight Masquerade party on the third floor, passed hors d'oeuvres, Champagne



Courtesy photo.

toast, late night buffet, giveaways, with VIP packages available.

Press Room (77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186) 8:30 p.m. \$20 and up — New Year's Eve Ski Party w/ DJ Chad Banks, D-Rowe Beatz & DJ Tugboat.

Red's Kitchen & Tavern (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030) 8 p.m. Masquerade party with live music from DNA.

Remix Skate Center (725 Huse Road, Manchester, skateremix.com) 8 p.m. \$30 — all-ages party hosted by DJ Darrey Roy, with unlimited skating, swag bags, bar specials and confetti countdown.

Revo Casino (1279 S. Willow St., Manchester, revocasino.com) 9 p.m. — George Cox hosts karaoke, with free party favors and a Champagne toast at midnight, late night menu, casino open until 4 a.m.

Revo Casino (887b Central Ave., Dover, revocasino.com) 7:30 p.m. — Madhouse Party Band performs.

Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588) 8 p.m. \$30 — Comedian Jimmy Dunn takes the stage for end-of-year laughs.

Rockingham Ballroom (22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket, eventbrite.com) 9 p.m. \$40 — With a theme of Fantasy Formal, it's dancing all night on the area's largest dance floor. DJ host Johnny B Groovy and Soul Sister Pam. Party favors, healthy late-night food and dessert table, midnight glass of Champagne.

Rooftop at The Envio (299 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, eventbrite.com) 8 p.m. \$110 — ticket includes a selection of passed hors d'oeuvres, an iced seafood raw bar, and a variety of appetizers to savor throughout the evening. Plus, enjoy two sparkling toasts — one to kick off the celebration as you arrive, and another at midnight. DJ Darwin Almonte from Get Down Tonight Entertainment will be on hand to keep you dancing all night long.

Rumors Sports Bar & Bowling (22 N. Main St., Newmarket, eventbrite.com) 8 p.m. \$10 — Multiple live performances, pizza, calzones and snacks, midnight toast.

Saddle Up Saloon (92 Route 125, Kingston, 369-6962) 9 p.m. \$80 — three-course dinner included (6 and 7:30 seatings) at this

event, with All That '90s playing memorable hits and a pizza buffet as midnight approaches.

Salt hill Pub Lebanon (2 West Park St., Lebanon, 448-4532) 9 p.m. \$10 — The Gully Boys, local legends playing the music of the Grateful Dead, Little Feat, Phish and other legendary acts.

Salt hill Pub Newport (58 Main St., Newport, 863-7774) 10 p.m. — 19th annual NYE party with the Loonz playing classic rock.

Sawtooth Kitchen (33 South Main St., Hanover, toasttab.com) 8 p.m. \$15 — psychedelic debauchery from Canopy, ticket includes a Champagne toast at midnight.

Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246) 6 p.m. \$60 — DJ Myth hosts an all-inclusive Epic New Year's Bash with 200 tickets sold covering a dinner buffet, midnight Champagne toast, live DJ and open bar (no shots). The club will be closed to anyone without tickets (21+ only).

Sheraton Hotel (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, eventbrite.com) 9 p.m. \$60 and up — Dueling Pianos provide entertainment with NY strip steak or roasted farm chicken dinner, one of two big events presented by Headliners Comedy Club.

Side Bar (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, thecommunityoven.com) 6:30 p.m. \$10, \$15 at the door — live DJ, Champagne toast, all-night drink specials at this party.

Sky Meadow Country Club (6 Mountain Laurels Drive, Nashua, headlinersnh.com) 7 p.m. \$25 — Bash in the Grotto with a la carte food and complimentary Champagne toast.

Smitty's Cinema (630 W. Main St., Tilton, smittyscinema.com) 9 p.m. \$20 — comedy show starring Rodney Norman.

Soho Bistro (20 Old Granite St., Manchester, 222-1677) 6 p.m. \$10 — masquerade ball at this downtown spot.

South Church UUC (292 State St., Portsmouth, portsmouthnhtickets.com) 6 p.m. \$25 — Last Blast NYE concert with The Reconstructed and Natalia Rothwell.

Stone Church (5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700) 7 p.m. \$50 — Neighbor closes out a three-night run with a NYE

party.

Stoned Wall Bar & Grill (37 Manchester St., Manchester, eventbrite.com) 8 p.m. \$50 ticket includes two drink tickets, glass for midnight toast, appetizers at this New Year's Eve party. \$20 cover after 8 p.m.

Strand Ballroom (20 Third St., Dover, 343-1899) 6 p.m. \$45 and up — Comedy with Scott Marcoux, followed by The Dancing Yetis playing classic rock, blues, funk and disco, with finger foods and midnight toast.

Sweeney Post #2 (251 Maple St., Manchester) 7:30 p.m. — Live music from Stray Dogs, with a potluck dinner, so bring an app, favorite dish or dessert to share.

Tenney Mountain Ski Resort (151 Tenney Mountain Road, Plymouth, 238-9567) 9 p.m. \$90 — Charcuterie station at 6 p.m., buffet with carving station from 7 to 9 p.m. Fireworks show with DJ entertainment and dancing starts at 8 p.m. Party favors and Champagne toast included, with the 2025 countdown ball drop playing live from Times Square! Cash bar.

The Brook Casino (319 New Zealand Road, Seabrook, eventbrite.com) 9 p.m. \$40 and up — Ring in the new year with Doug Ferony and the best of Frank Sinatra.

The Goat MHT (50 Old Granite St., Manchester, 603-4628) 5:30 p.m. NYE Party with Seven Day Weekend is reprised.

Thirsty Moose (21 Congress St., Portsmouth, 427-8645) 8 p.m. Woodland Protocol performs downstairs with DJ Millzy spinning upstairs.

Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derby, 437-5100) noon — Adam Ezra Group and opening duo dynamo Sirsy play with a four-course dinner at 5:30 p.m. for \$95; 9 p.m. show only is \$45, and all tickets include a Champagne toast.

Tuscan Market & Village (9 Via Toscana, Salem, tuscanbrands.com) 9 p.m. — Ring in the new year at The Veranda with a DJ, exclusive views of the midnight fireworks show, and special featured entertainment.

Twins Smoke Shop (80 Perkins Road, Londonderry, 421-0242) 8 p.m. — Welcome the new year with cigars and cocktails in the shop's 7-20-4 Lounge.

Wally's Pub (144 Ashworth Ave., Hampton, 926-6954) 7:30 p.m. — Fast Times plays music from the 1980s.

Winona Social Club (168 Manchester St., Manchester, 623-9248) 8:30 p.m. — Music from DJ Joe with potluck food and Jell-o shots.

WSCA Radio (909 Islington St., Suite 1, Portsmouth, 430-9722) 8:30 p.m. \$45 — NYE with Adrienne Mack-Davis, 32 French, Sound Around Us, DJ Skooch, & DJ Mam, includes food, Champagne toast 21+.

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

- Alton Bay**
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
- Brookline**
The Alamo Texas Barbecue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000
- Concord**
The Barley House 132 N. Main St., 228-6363
- Cheers 17 Depot St., 228-0180
- 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**
Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811
- Derry**
Fody's Tavern 187 Rockingham Road, 404-6946
- Dover**
Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240
- Smuttynose Brewing**
105 Towle Farm Road
- Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant** 11 Fourth St., 343-4390
- Epping**
Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559
- 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 17 L St., 967-4777
- Wally's Pub** 144 Ashworth Ave., 926-6954
- Whym Craft Pub & Brewery** 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801
- Henniker**
Pats Peak Sled Pub 24 Flanders Road, 888-728-7732
- Hudson**
The Bar 2B Burnham Road
- Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900
- Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962
- Laconia**
Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022
- 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
- City Hall Pub 8 Hanover St., 232-3751
- Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880
- Firefly 21 Concord St., 935-9740
- 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
- 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
- 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 24 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476-5485
- Nashua**
Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484-7400
- Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton St., 577-9015
- San Francisco Kitchen** 133 Main St., 886-8833
- Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse** 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070
- New Boston**
Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362
- Newbury**
Goosefeathers Pub Mt. Sunapee Resort, 1298 Route 103
- Newmarket**
Stone Church 5 Granite St., 659-7700
- Pembroke**
Cavern Sports Bar 351 Pembroke St., 485-7777
- Pembroke City Limits** 134 Main St., 210-2409, pembrokecitylimits.com
- 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 Tavern 95 Brewery Lane, 436-6656
- Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186

Thursday, Dec. 26

- Auburn**
Auburn Pitts: open jam, 7 p.m.
- Bedford**
Copper Door: Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.
- Brookline**
Alamo: open mike with Travis Rollo, 6 p.m.
- Derry**
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.
- Epping**
Telly's: Andrea Paquin, 7 p.m.
- Epsom**
Hill Top: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.
- Goffstown**
Village Trestle: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.
- Hampton**
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Smuttynose: Stephen Decuire, 5:30 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
- Hudson**
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ Jason, 7 p.m.
- Laconia**
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.
- Londonderry**
Stumble Inn: Charlie Chronopoulos Duo, 5:30 p.m.
- Manchester**
Fratello's: Lou Antonucci, 5:30 p.m.
Goat: Cox Karaoke, 8 p.m.

- Meredith**
Giuseppe's: The Sweetbloods, 5:45 p.m.
- Merrimack**
Homestead: Chris Taylor, 5:30 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Jack Plante, 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.
SFK: Chris Lester, 6:30 p.m.
Shorty's: Pat Foley, 6 p.m.

- Pembroke**
Pembroke City Limits: all request piano show Jim Tyrell, 6 p.m.

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

- Portsmouth**
The Press Room: Nikki and The Barn Boys, 6 p.m.

- Salem**
Copper Door: Dave Clark, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 27

- Alton Bay**
Foster's Tavern: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.
- Bedford**
Murphy's: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.
- Bristol**
Kathleen's: Irish Session, 7 p.m.
- Concord**
The Forum Pub: Crazy Steve, 8 p.m.
- Epping**
Telly's: Lewis Goodwin Duo, 8 p.m.
- Gilford**
Patrick's Pub: Holy Cow music bingo, 7 p.m.
- Goffstown**
Village Trestle: Chris Powers, 6 p.m.
- Hampton**
CR's: Dog Fathers, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
- Hudson**
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.
- Kingston**
Saddle Up Saloon: open line

- Seabrook**
Backyard Burgers: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.
Red's: Jonny Friday, 7 p.m.

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

- Waren**
The Local: Justin Cohn, 5 p.m.

- Windham**
Windham Restaurant: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.



HOT FOR HALEN

The New England Van Halen tribute act **Cathedral** has the range and musicianship to pull off both classic-era Van Halen and the later Sammy Hagar years. Their shows have drawn praise from die-hard VH fans across the country. They're ready to rock the stage at the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) on Tuesday, December 31, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$30 to \$40 plus fees.

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.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Thirsty Moose Tap-house 21 Congress St., 427-8645	Broadway, 458-2033	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706	350 Route 108, 841-5421
Rochester Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964	Sayde's Bar & Grill 136 Cluff Crossing Road, 890-1032	Red's Kitchen + Tavern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030	Windham Restaurant 59 Range Road, 870-9270
Salem Copper Door 41 S.	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581	Somersworth Earth Eagle North	

dancing, 7 p.m.

Laconia
Defiant Records: Holly Furlone, 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 Winslow, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Jonny Friday Duo, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Country Roads, 9 p.m.
Bookery: open mic night, 7 p.m.
Derryfield: Off The Record, 8:30 p.m.
Fretello's: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
The Foundry: Ian Archibold, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Sugah Rush, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: open mic, 5:30 p.m.
Olympus Pizza: Chris Taylor, 7 p.m.
Revo Casino: Cox karaoke, 9 p.m.
Fratello's: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
Shaskeen: The Regals, 9 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Andre Balazs, 6 p.m.
Twin Barns: Jack Ancora, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.

Milford
Riley's: open mic, 7 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee's: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
SFK: Dave Clark, 6:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly's: Travis Rollo, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Consider the Source, 9 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Sarah Bird and Friends, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Ralph Allen, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Grill 28: Jamie Hughes, 6 p.m.
Mojo's: Dave Maclean, 6 p.m.
Press Room: Catwolf w/ Palana vs. The Man & Five Feet, 6 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Closing Time, 9 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Chad LaMarsh, 8:30 p.m.
Luna: Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.
Sayde's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Sanbornton
Steele Hill Resort: Willy Chase, 6 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: BITD, 8:30 p.m.
Red's: 8 Track Flash Back, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 28
Alton Bay
Foster's Tavern: The Lone Wolf,

Bedford
Murphy's: Dani Sven, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Dave Clark, 7 p.m.

Concord
Eagle Square: Jack Ancora, 9 a.m.
The Forum Pub: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.; Sea Shanty Night, 8 p.m.

Contoocook
Contoocook Cider Co.: Kimayo, 1 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Grub Lord, Ampevene, Milk St., 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Circle Duo, 6 p.m.
Telly's: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.

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

Goffstown
Village Trestle: The Northsiders, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR's: Dog Fathers, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Foo, 9 p.m.

Henniker
Pats Peak: Brad Myrick Band, 6 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Malcolm in the Middle, 8:30 p.m.

HOLIDAY MAGIC



Looking for a fun outing during school vacation week? **Ben Pratt** has your number. This Granite State native has been honing his act since the tender age of 7, and his blend of stand-up comedy and classic illusions will appeal to kids and their parents. He returns to Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

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beer barrel. Aged for over
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Irish triple-distilled grain
and premium malt Irish
whiskeys. Smooth 'no bite,
no burn' finish



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- 2 oz Cask & Crew Ginger Spice Whiskey
- 3 oz ginger beer
- 1 tbsp fresh lime juice
- 203 fresh mint leaves
- Lime wedges and mint sprigs for garnish



CASK&CREW GINGER SPICE WHISKEY

Find in the Flavored Whiskey section
A blend of 51% Canadian rye and 49% barrel-aged
American corn whiskey along with ginger root and spice.
The end result reads like whiskey mixed with ginger ale,
sweet up-front and finishing with a ginger zing!

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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Laconia

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

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Eddie Sands, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Dancing Madly Backwards, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Danny McCarthy, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Martin and Kelly, 9 p.m.
Derryfield: Emily's Perrotta, 8:30 p.m.
Foundry: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: John Chouinard, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; Small Town Stranded, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Paul Nelson, 4 p.m.
Shaskeen: Graniteers, TFR, Already Dead, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Outside Help, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Bob Kroepel at the piano, 5:45 p.m.
Twin Barns: Colin Hart, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Jenni Lynn Duo, 8 p.m.

New Boston

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

Newbury

Mount Sunapee: Ian Archibold, 3 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: The Dreamers, 2 p.m.; Free Will, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: David Corson, 9:30 p.m.
Press Room: DiTrani Brothers w/ Moon Hollow, 6 p.m.; Dj Millzy & Dj Skd, 10 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: OverTone, 9 p.m.

Films

- **Wicked** (PG, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.com, Thursday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 2, at noon, 3:45 & 7 p.m.;
- **Mufasa: The Lion King** (PG, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Thursday, Thursday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 2, at 12:30, 3:30 & 6:30 p.m.
- **Babygirl** (R, 2024) will screen at

Salem

Dreo: Bella Perrotta, 8:30 p.m.

Sanbornton

Steele Hill Resort: Dan Fallon, 6 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 29

Bedford

Copper Door: Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Andrea Paquin, 1 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Paul Lussier, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton

CR's: Just the Two of Us, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: Chris and Paul Belsey, 4 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Brian Walker, 1 p.m.

Laconia

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

Manchester

Bonfire: free line dancing, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Jetty, 9 p.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.

Newbury

Mount Sunapee: Chris Lester, 2 p.m.

Pembroke

PCL: Jazz Sunday with Gary Smith, 1:30 p.m.; Eric Ober, 4:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

Press Room: Johanna Landis, noon; Diamond Blues, 7 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Steve Prisby, 11 a.m.

Monday, Dec. 30

Dover

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

Gilford

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

Hudson

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

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

Merrimack

Homestead: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 7 p.m.
Press Room: DJ Decks w/ DJ Chad Banks, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 31

Alton Bay

Foster's Tavern: Dan Fallon, 6 p.m.

Amherst

LaBelle: Freese Brothers Big Band, 7:30 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Clint Lapointe, 4 p.m.

Boscawen

Alan's: Freddie Partridge Band, 8 p.m.

Concord

Cheers: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Penuche's: Donaher, New Norde, Lovewell and Jay the Barber

required for this presentation where quote-along-ing and banter are encouraged.

- **The Great Gatsby** (2013, R) screens Saturday, Dec. 28, at 1 p.m. at The Flying Monkey (39 S. Main St. in Plymouth; flyingmonkeynh.com).
- **Aida**, a broadcast of The MET: Live in HD, will screen at BNH Stage in Concord, ccanh.com, on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

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

Dover

Auspicious: NYE Party w/ Citi-zen Kane & Liz Ridgley, 9 p.m.

Hampton

Wally's: Fast Times, 9 p.m.

Henniker

Pats Peak: Dave & Wally, 6 p.m.

Hudson

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

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: '90s NYE Party, 6 p.m.

Manchester

City Hall: Latch Key Trio, 8 p.m.

Club Canadian: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band, 9 p.m.

Fratello's: Tim Kierstead, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: 7 Day Weekend, 9 p.m.

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

Shaskeen: NYE Bash, 8 p.m.

Strange Brew: The Expanded All Stars, 9 p.m.

Meredith

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

Merrimack

Homestead: Jeff Mrozek

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Johnny Angel, 9:30 p.m.

Press Room: WSCA ft. Adrienne Mack-Davis, 32 French, Sound Around Us, 8 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: Woodland Protocol, 9:30 p.m.

Rochester

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

Salem

Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 4 p.m.

Sanbornton

Steele Hill Resort: 90 Miles Away, 8 p.m.

Seabrook

Backyard Burgers: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Chop Shop: The AC/DC Experience, 8:30 p.m.

Red's: DNA, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Concord

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Kingston

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

Manchester

The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.

Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.

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

Milford

Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Red's: Johnny Angel, 7 p.m.

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DINTY CHILD & MARK ERELLI
Thurs, Jan 30th, 7:30pm



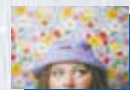
GUY DAVIS
Thurs, Feb 13th, 7:30pm



ELLIS PAUL
Thurs, Feb 27th, 7:30pm



AZTEC TWO STEP 2.0
Thurs, Mar 6th, 7:30pm



BRITTANY MOORE
Thurs, Mar 20th, 7:30pm



WILLY PORTER & TOM PIROZZOLI
Thurs, Mar 27th, 7:30pm



LONESOME ACE STRING BAND
Thurs, Apr 3rd, 7:30pm



SAM ROBBINS
Thurs, Apr 10th, 7:30pm



GARNET ROGERS
Wed, Apr 23rd & Thurs, Apr 24th, 7:30pm

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

- **Wednesday** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, Manchester, 9 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Laugh Attic at Strange Brew, Manchester, strangebrewtavern.net, 8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday** Murphy's Taproom, Manchester, murphystaproom.com, 8 p.m.

Events

- **Juston McKinney** Music Hall, Portsmouth, themusichall.org, Thursday, Dec. 26-Saturday, Dec. 28
- **Bob Marley** Rochester Opera House, rochesteroperahouse.com, Thursday, Dec. 26, 8 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 30, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Tuesday, Dec. 31, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

- **Adam Wade** Rex, Palace, 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.
- **Joe Gatto** Chubb Theatre, Concord, ccanh.com, Monday, Dec. 30, 7 p.m.
- **Juston McKinney** Nashua Center for the Arts, nashuacenterforthearts.com, Monday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 5 and 8 p.m.
- **Jimmy Dunn** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org Monday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.
- **Steve Scarfo/Kyle Crawford/Dan Crohn** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.
- **Frank Santorelli/Liam Hales** McCue's, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com, Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.
- **Feud Gone Wild** Rex, palacetheatre.org, Friday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.
- **Juston McKinney** CAKE Theatre, Laconia, thecaketheatre.com Saturday, Jan. 4, at 8 p.m.
- **Frank Santorelli/Mark Riccadonna** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.

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NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Trivia Weekly trivia

- **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 Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.

- **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
- **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday** trivia at Biergarten Anheuser-Busch (221 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 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** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) at 6 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, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m..
- **Wednesday** trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-3751, snhhg.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at 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** 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 Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Talespinner Brewery (57 Factory St., Nashua, ramblyngtale.com, 318-3220) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at

- **Harsh** Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Pizzastock** Sunday, Jan. 5, 1 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusicall.com
- **Mikey G** Sunday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m., BankNH Stage, Concord, ccanh.com
- **Lyle Brewer Quartet** Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
- **Jenny Scheinman's All Species Parade** Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
- **Socks in the Frying Pan** Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, themusicall.org
- **Maurice "Mobetta" Brown** Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
- **Crush** (Dave Matthews tribute) Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, 3arts.org
- **Get the Led Out** (Led Zeppelin tribute) Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre, Concord, ccanh.com
- **Gavin Marengi Band** Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, themusicall.org
- **The Machine** (Pink Floyd) Friday, Jan. 10, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House, rochesteroperahouse.com

- **Concerts**
- **Catwolf/Palana vs. The Man/Five Feet** Friday, Dec. 27, 6 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Kandace Springs** Friday, Dec. 27, and Saturday, Dec. 28, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
- **Moondance** (Van Morrison tribute) Friday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m., Lakeport Opera House, Laconia, lakeportopera.com
- **Forever Simon & Garfunkel** Friday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
- **Zach Nugent's Dead Set** Friday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre, Concord, ccanh.com
- **Wolfman Jack** (Grateful Dead tribute) Friday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Strand, Dover, thestranddover.org
- **Consider the Source/Leon Trout** Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., Stone Church, Newmarket, stonechurchrocks.com
- **Bella's Bartok** Saturday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, 3sarts.org
- **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, rochesteroperahouse.com
- **Ditrani Brothers/Moon Hollow** Saturday, Dec. 28, 6 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Enter the Haggis** Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, 3sarts.org
- **Primal Soup** Saturday, Dec. 28, 8 p.m., Stone Church, Newmarket, stonechurchrocks.com
- **Diamond Blues** Sunday, Dec. 29, 6 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Studio Two** (Beatles tribute) Sunday, Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre, Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org
- **Alexia Scott** Monday, Dec. 30, 5:30 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Dueling Pianos** Monday, Dec. 30, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
- **Recycled Percussion** Tuesday, Dec. 31 through Jan. 12, Rex,

Concerts

- Manchester, Palacetheatre.org
- **Dueling Pianos** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 6 p.m., Sheraton Nashua
- **Cathedral** (Van Halen tribute) Tuesday, Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey, Plymouth, flyingmonkeynh.com
- **Big Easy** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., BNH Stage, Concord, ccanh.com
- **Adrienne Mack-Davis/32French/Sound Around Us** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Adam Ezra Group** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusicall.com
- **Rockspring** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 9 p.m., Music

- Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, themusicall.org
- **Life's A Drag** Tuesday, Dec. 31, 10 p.m., Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com
- **The Dapper Gents** Thursday, Jan. 2, 8 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **A Strange Day** (Cure tribute) Friday, Jan. 3, 8 p.m., Press Room, Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
- **Story Songs of the '70s** Saturday, Jan. 4, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
- **Captain Jack and the Strangers** Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusicall.com
- **Recycled Percussion** Tuesday, Dec. 31 through Jan. 12, Rex,

- themusicall.org
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HERE'S TO YOU, PAUL AND ART



Ex-Rockapella tenor Sean Altman and up-and-coming singer/songwriter Jack Skuller have joined forces with **Forever Simon and Garfunkel**, which pays tribute to the best-selling duo in rock 'n' roll history. They return to the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Sunday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$35 to \$40 plus fees.

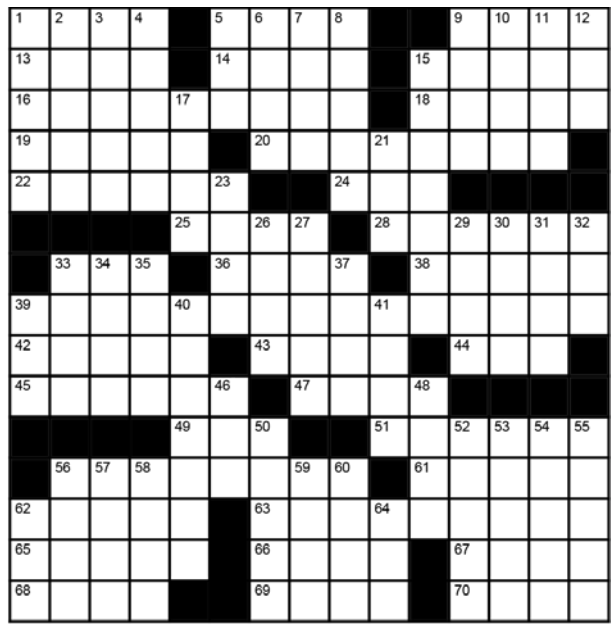
The cops are here!

- Across**
- Frankie Valli 'Walk Like ___'
 - Member break in relations
 - All-female Aussie 'Take Me Away' band
 - Electronic Brits that are not in stereo?
 - Folk singer Guthrie
 - Epstein of Petty's Heartbreakers
 - Half of Perry Farrell band, w/Jane's
 - Goes with 'Ivory', to Wonder & McCartney
 - Rudy of Quiet Riot/Whitesnake
 - 'Goodnite, Sweetheart, Goodnite' doo-wop band
 - Neil Young & Crazy Horse '___ With Angels'
 - Band schedule will do this when rockers run late
 - Served at show for sober driver
 - B-52s live in 'Love' ones
 - Genre of Smashing Pumpkins or 90s rock (abbr)
 - Beyoncé song about an angel's headdress?
 - Eurythmics 'Would I Lie ___?'
 - '83 'Seven And The Ragged Tiger' Duran Duran hit

- The train Berlin rode
- Cherish 'Do it ___'
- Coldplay producer Brian
- Looks for, as friend you will sit next to
- Lonestar '___ Day Goes By'
- '88 Hall & Oates album '___ Yeah'
- State Jewel is from
- '93 Primus album
- Harry Nilsson ties up a 'Blanket For ___' and hits the windy seas
- '05 'In This 'River' Black Label Society album
- '76 Doobie Brothers song/album '___ The Streets'
- George Harrison 'Isn't It ___'
- Van Morrison "___ Heaven when you smile"
- '08 Death Cab For Cutie single
- '72 Allman Brothers 'Blue Sky' album '___ Peach'
- '99 Red Balloons' band
- 'Only Time' Irish softrock singer

- Down**
- Collect, as Kiss cards
 - Like jazz musical modes for harmonic framework
 - Rapper/singer 3000
 - Misspelled classic Cum On Feel The ___
 - Train song about double-crossing squealer to police?
 - Romanian rockers that inspired Goo Goo Dolls?
 - Disaster
 - Relating to tones
 - Earring site
 - Exodus song that was a military no-show?
 - Hozier 'I'll tell you my ___ so you can sharpen your knife'
 - Kula Shaker '___ Dude'
 - 'How Do You Talk To An Angel' The ___
 - Don't want them to break up loud backyard jam
 - He raps w/Damian Marley
 - 90s English 'Hippy-chick' pop trio
 - Half of 'One More Time' band w/Punk
 - Rocksteady innovator Ellis
 - Like prime player
 - '73 Three Dog Night album
 - Blues singer Taylor
 - "My Peggy ___" Buddy Holly
 - Pet Shop Boys "Cause you're ___ York City boy"
 - 'Kiss Me Deadly' Ford
 - 'Crucify' Amos
 - Black Keys are from Akron in this state
 - Actress Thurman

- Fall Out Boy likes
- My Chemical Romance 'I'm ___ (I Promise)'
- 'Mystery Lady (Songs Of Billie Holiday)' jazz singer James
- 'Take Your Time (Do It Right)' ___ Band
- Engineer Parsons or Filter's Bailey
- Nelly '___ Herre'
- "You're as cold ___"
- Daniel Johnston subject matter, often
- PUSA song about a cat?
- Star's island greeting
- Who knows that Bruce doesn't have any money, on 'Rosalita'
- Grateful Dead "Yes I get the gist __, but it's alright"
- Damn Yankees 'Mrs ___'
- Concert broad, chick or this
- Like similar bands
- Maggie's last name, to Beatles
- Dishwalla 'Once ___ While'



R&R answer from pg 40 of 12/19



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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

King Classic Sudoku Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★★

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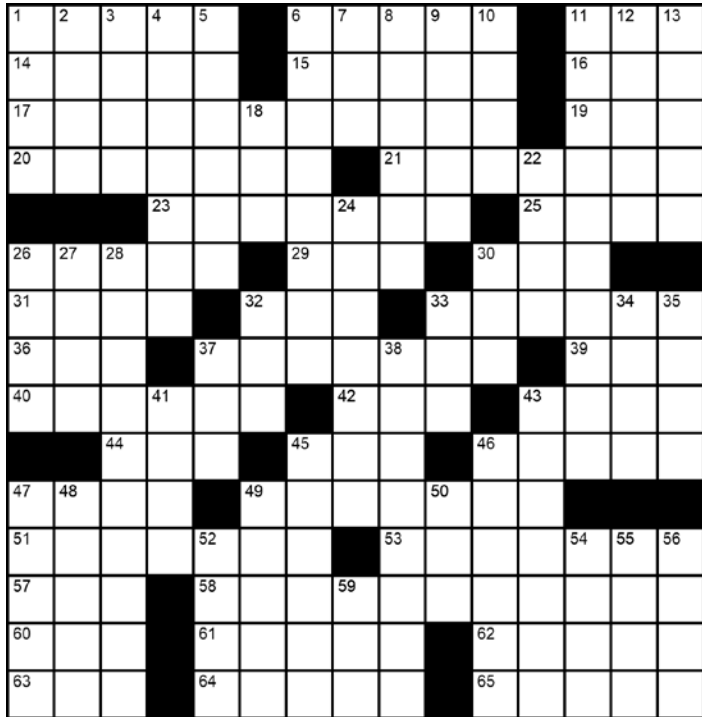
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“Reverse Routes”—if you switched them...



Across

- 1. “___: The Hands of Fate” (“MST3K” classic)
- 6. Helpers, briefly
- 11. Relay section
- 14. Dangly throat thing
- 15. Antique photo tone
- 16. “___ just figured it out”
- 17. Portable brain?
- 19. Outburst
- 20. Bigger than big
- 21. 1967 spelled-out #1 hit
- 23. Jackie’s second married name
- 25. Microscopic
- 26. Arouse, as curiosity
- 29. Little kid
- 30. Progressive character
- 31. Color in the Atlético Madrid logo
- 32. Haunted house noise
- 33. Spock’s home planet
- 36. “Annabel Lee” poet
- 37. Keep up
- 39. Raw mineral
- 40. Certain ticket buyers
- 42. 1,000-plus-year realm, for short
- 43. “Hook” sidekick
- 44. ___ de parfum

- 45. Feeder user
- 46. “People tell me ...”
- 47. H.S. exams
- 49. Glow
- 51. Wedding cake specification
- 53. Bagel varieties
- 57. Live mascot of the Bulldogs
- 58. Dub some DJ turntablism over a Pixar movie?
- 60. “I finally made it through ___

- school” (“Like a Surgeon” opener)
- 61. Actress Watts
- 62. Catherine who played Moira Rose
- 63. “___ XING”
- 64. Eye-related
- 65. “Grand” mountain

Down

- 1. G.H. ___ (name on champagne bottles)
- 2. Converse competitor
- 3. “Sister Act” group
- 4. Someone wise beyond their years, it’s said
- 5. Nicole Kidman’s role in “Moulin Rouge!”
- 6. Hazardous fireproofing material
- 7. Sun. lecture
- 8. Budget airline that filed for bankruptcy in late 2024
- 9. Fork points
- 10. Sinks under pressure
- 11. Your future?
- 12. Boot out
- 13. California art museum, with “the”
- 18. Eggs in a lab
- 22. Dispensary unit
- 24. Placated
- 26. Largest of the Three Bears
- 27. Polo shirt producer
- 28. Line up for first dibs using the plus sign?
- 30. A good time (hopefully had by all)
- 32. City transit

- 33. “La ___ en rose”
- 34. Measure of coverage
- 35. ___-do-well
- 37. “Rugrats” father
- 38. Skilled at sculpture, perhaps
- 41. “The ___ of Us”
- 43. Encase, as a sword
- 45. Bird in a Monty Python sketch
- 46. Summer complaint
- 47. Baffle

- 48. “Shucks, stop it!”
 - 49. Quickly review
 - 50. Agcy. spawned by the Manhattan Project
 - 52. “Money ___ object”
 - 54. Medieval defense feature
 - 55. Word on Dutch coins
 - 56. Bridge section
 - 59. “What ___, made of money?”
- © 2024 Matt Jones



EASY

3-	7+		2÷
	6x		
2	3-		1-
4+		2	

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CHALLENGING

3÷	24x	11+		16x	2-
2-	2÷	9+	2÷	3-	
				3÷	
3-		1-		5-	2-
2-		3+			

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RULES

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

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

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

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

9x		2÷	
1	3	2	4
3	1	4	2
2	4	3	1
4	2	1	3

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WORD★Roundup™
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four shapes
- Three fish starting with H
- Three six-letter dogs
- “Star Trek II: The ___ of ___”
- Possibility

Last Week’s Answers: LEAD IRON ZINC GOLD / WEASEL RABBIT COUGAR MONKEY / BHUTAN BELIZE BRAZIL / ROCKY BALBOA / ARIES LIBRA

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

Jonesin’ answer from pg 39 of 12/19



SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *The Organized Mind*, by Daniel J. Levitin, born Dec. 27, 1957.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *The key to creating useful categories in our homes is to limit the number of types of things they contain to one or at most four types of things (respecting the capacity limitations of working memory). This is usually easy to do. Earth, air, water, fire?*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Some people, particularly those with attention deficit disorder, panic when they can't see all of their files in front of them, out in the open. Which is why you don't want to own more files than can fit in your field of vision.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *Getting organized can bring us all to the next level in our lives. If that's where you want to go.*

Aries (March 21 – April 19) ... not all naps are created equal. Not even close.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *Where art, technology, or science alone cannot solve problems, the combination of the three is perhaps the most powerful of all. Everybody can pitch in.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *In the old days, if the phone rang and we were busy, we either didn't answer or we turned the ringer off. Easy!*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) ... a successful system is one that requires the minimum amount of searching time and is transparent to anyone who walks in the room. Your keys are right there.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) ... you don't have to count every single item in your grocery bag to know whether or not the total is reasonable.... How many Christmas cookies did you buy, anyway?

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Our homes are not typically as well organized as, say, Ace Hardware, the Gap, or the Lancôme counter. And that's OK, but you can take inspiration.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *The problem is that putting systems in place for organizing our homes and work spaces is a daunting task; we fear they'll take too much time and energy ... and that, like a New Year's Day diet resolution, we won't be able to stick to them for long. A good system will stick to itself.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *If you walk into a furniture store, you might ask the greeter where the chairs are. But if you walk into a store called Just Chairs and ask the same question, it sounds odd.... Read the room?*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *For many of us, a number of items on our To Do lists require a decision and we feel we don't have enough information to make the decision. To Do: gather information.*

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 streetcar's name in a play (6)	_____
2 it's not upbuilding (11)	_____
3 human society (5)	_____
4 preferential treatment (5)	_____
5 perceived orally (6)	_____
6 once upon a time and again (5)	_____
7 do the trick (7)	_____

ST	LD	TI	SUF	RE
TWI	FI	DE	VOR	FA
WOR	CE	DE	TA	ST
RUC	SI	CE	ED	ON

Last Week's Answers: 1. CREAM 2. SKATING 3. HOCKEY
4. FISHING 5. SHELF 6. DANCING 7. SCULPTURE

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Sudoku Answers from pg 40 of 12/19

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 12/2 ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★ 12/3 ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/30 ©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

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/neglected 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/courtcourts/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
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Grinch

If you were hoping to extend your holiday spirit to your automobile and you live in Wyoming, think again. United Press International reported that the Wyoming Highway Patrol is reminding motorists that colored Christmas lights are not legal on civilian cars. The statute says that “no person shall drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device thereon capable of displaying a red or blue light visible from directly in front of the center thereof.” In other words, only cops get red and blue lights on their cars. The WHP posted a photo on Dec. 2 with a car completely covered in Christmas lights being pulled over. *UPI, Dec. 13*

Least Competent Criminal

An unnamed man in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, allegedly caused a multi-vehicle crash on Dec. 4, KKTV reported. When officers arrived, they asked him how many drinks he had consumed, to which he answered, “probably 10. Hey, hey, hey, I’m gonna tell you right now, like, I’m a professional drinker,” he said. Police administered a breathalyzer test, which showed the man’s blood alcohol content was more than four times the legal limit.

He was handcuffed and charged; no one was hurt in the accident. *KKTV, Dec. 12*

You Had One Job ...

Commuters in Samut Prakan, Thailand, were flummoxed upon arriving at a newly renovated bus stop, Nation Thailand reported on Dec. 7. The floor of the stop was concrete, which had been poured up to the bottoms of the seats of the brand-new green plastic chairs, causing riders to sit on the ground. While the contractor has acknowledged the mistake and vowed to fix it, online commenters have had a field day: “Designed for people to sit Thai-style, neatly and politely,” one said. “I love the concept behind this work,” said another. *National Thailand, Dec. 7*

Wait, What?

OK, first of all, who knew that grain silos have basements? But I digress. In El Dorado County, California, a horse fell through a narrow opening in the floor of an abandoned grain silo and into the structure’s basement, United Press International reported on Dec. 17. El Dorado Search and Rescue came to the animal’s rescue and used a pulley system to hoist Matsie the mare out of the basement, after

which she was “reunited with her family and friends.” To which she responded, “Neeiiiigggghhhh.” *UPI, Dec. 17*

Animal Antics

On Dec. 14, at a rugby match in Buckinghamshire, England, between the Marlow Rugby Club 2nd XV and the Rams Rugby Club 3rd Team Centaurs, a Marlow player was flattened when a small deer ran onto the field and collided with him, the BBC reported. Neither the player nor the deer were injured, and Marlow went on to win the contest 19-17. *BBC, Dec. 16*

Reunited

Do you remember your fourth grade lunchbox? Tracy Drain of Virginia is getting reacquainted with hers. It went missing 40 years ago and was found in early December by a plumber, who discovered the vintage Heathcliff-themed memento hiding in a pipe chase while he was working at Fairview Elementary School in Roanoke. A tag inside was adorned with Drain’s name, and a former co-worker of Drain’s reached out to her after reading about the lunchbox find in a Facebook post from the Roanoke City Public Schools. Drain told WDBJ-7, “I’m

definitely going to treasure it because of mom’s writing on it and the way she took care of us as kids and how she raised us.” *WDBJ-7, Dec. 11*

Keeping Spirits Up

In “What could possibly go wrong?” news, an Ohio funeral home may soon be able to serve alcohol to grieving families. Evergreen Funeral, Cremation and Reception, in Columbus, applied for a liquor license earlier this year and could be serving as soon as January, reported ABC-WSYX on Dec. 16. Evergreen’s owner, Hunter Triplett, says he wants to shed the funeral industry’s dark, morbid reputation. One way to do that? Let mourners raise a toast to their lost loved ones. “My role in this position is to kind of be a party planner for the dead,” Triplett said. If approved, the facility would receive a D3 liquor license, which in Ohio allows the sale of beer, wine and hard liquor for consumption on-site. Interestingly, the property used to be a chocolate factory; perhaps Triplett could consider giving mourners truffles rather than Tito’s. *ABC-WSYX, Dec. 16*

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

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 Berry compote or Double Layer Chocolate ice cream cake

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