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JANUARY 16 - 22, 2025

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VOL 25 NO 3

News and culture weekly serving Metro Southern New Hampshire
Published every Thursday
(1st copy free; 2nd \$1).
195 McGregor St., Suite 325,
Manchester, N.H. 03102
P 603-625-1855 F 603-625-2422
hippopress.com
email: news@hippopress.com

ON THE COVER

10 In this week's cover story, Michael Witthaus brings you several cozy local venues where you can see music this winter. These intimate spots get you up close to musicians offering original works in a variety of genres.



ALSO ON THE COVER

Get ready for some FUN voting. Voting in our Best of 2025 readers' poll starts early this year. Log on to hippopress.com and vote for your favorite burger, your favorite spot for a winter hike, your favorite margarita and your favorite local comedian. All fun things! Vote now! Get your friends to vote now! Get your mom to vote now! Also, call your mom! See page 5 for details.

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And raise a glass to haggis and Robert Burns at the Scottish Arts Burns Night celebration! Zachary Lewis talks with an organizer on page 6.

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NEWS & NOTES

Radon Action Month

According to a press release from the American Lung Association, about 35 percent of radon test results in New Hampshire equal or exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's action level, as reported in the Association's "State of Lung Center" report, which you can see at lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer. As part of January and National Radon Action Month, "the Lung Association in New Hampshire strongly urges all residents to test their home for radon and take immediate steps to mitigate the threat if high levels are found," the release said. "Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless naturally occurring radioactive gas emitted from the ground... [Radon] is the leading cause of lung cancer in people who have never smoked." Get a free radon test kit at freeradontestkit.com/ala. See lung.org/clean-air/indoor-air/indoor-air-pollutants/radon for more on radon.

Museums, assemble

The Currier Museum of Art, SEE Science Center, the Manchester Historic Association, which operates the Millyard Museum, and the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire are launching a "Manchester Museums" collaboration that will seek to promote the museums, according to a press release. A new website, manchestermuseumsnh.org, will offer links to the four museums' websites as well as a suggested two-day trip itinerary. The partnership will hold a launch on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 4 p.m. at the Greater Manchester Chamber

of Commerce, 54 Hanover St., the release said.

"Cultural institutions are the heartbeat of a city's economy, weaving creativity and heritage into the fabric of daily life, driving tourism, innovation, and community growth," said Heather McGrail, president and CEO of Greater Manchester Chamber, in the press release.

The four institutions are launching the campaign in advance of the November 2025 convention of the New England Museum Association, which will be held in Manchester, the release said.

Franco-American guy

Kelly Ayotte, who officially became New Hampshire's governor on Jan. 9, is the first Franco-American elected to the office, according to a note in the Franco-American Centre's newsletter from the Centre's executive director John Tousignant. She is also the first Republican woman to hold the office, the note said. Large numbers of French Canadians moved to New Hampshire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the note said.

Cash to charge

New Hampshire received \$15 million in federal grants for publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure, according to a press release from the state's Department of Transportation, which applied with collaboration from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and others. The funds will be used for the "Next Level NH" program, which will increase EV

charging hubs throughout the state, the release said. See dot.nh.gov/projects-plans-and-programs/ev-charging-infrastructure for more on the projects.

Go, Twitchers

The Twitchers, a New Hampshire Audubon team that participates in the Mass Audubon's annual Superbowl of Birding, will once again seek to find the most bird species during a 12-hour period on Saturday, Jan. 25, according to a press release. The Twitchers, led by captain Becky Suomala, are looking to raise \$4,000 for the NH Audubon Conservation Department, the release said. See nhaudubon.org/make-a-donation-to-twitchers for more on the Twitchers. For more on the event, which covers the Massachusetts North Shore as well as towns in Rockingham County, see massaudubon.org and look for "Superbowl of Birding" in Programs & Events.

From church to home

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance has a new handbook available to "assist congregations that are considering leaving or repurposing historic properties and want to explore their building's re-use for housing," according to an Alliance email. The handbook, *Transitioning Religious Properties to Meet Housing Needs*, is available for download for free at nhpreservation.org or for purchase as a hard copy for \$22.

The preservation trades

The New Hampshire Preser-

vation Alliance is also offering "career exploration opportunities for participants ages 16 to 19 who are interested in the old building trades," according to an Alliance email. During February (Feb. 24-Feb. 28) and April (April 28-May 2) vacations, teens (who do not need experience) will get exposure to "a range of historic preservation activities which may include traditional construction techniques, repair of damaged building elements, wood window restoration and the history of the buildings being worked on," according to the website. Pro-

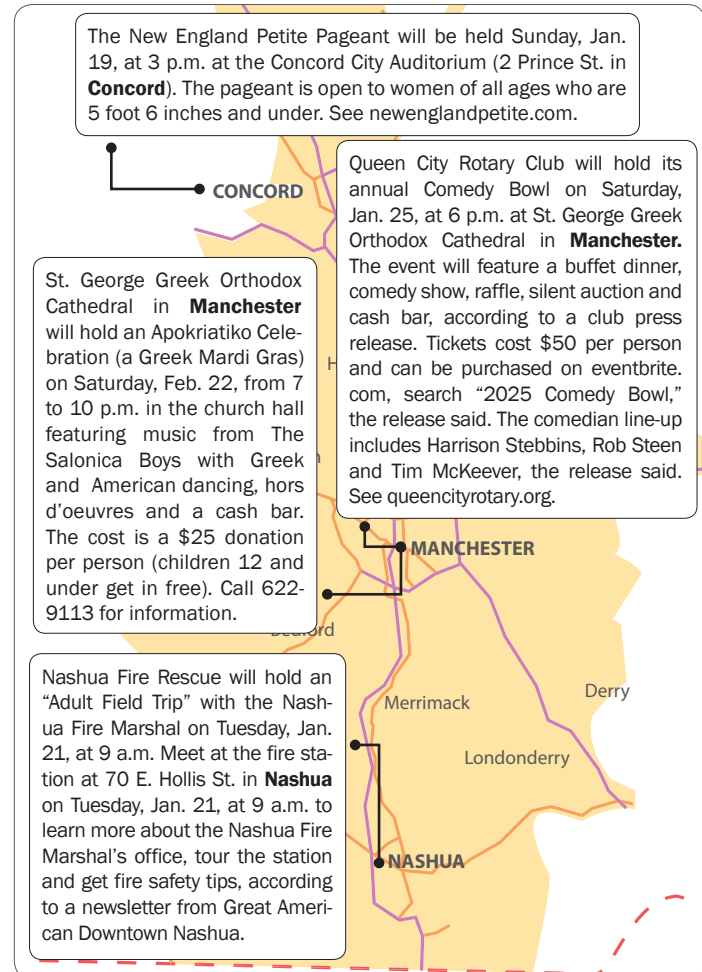
fessionals — many of whom are members of the Timber Framers Guild, the Window Preservation Alliance or other trade organizations — will provide the mentoring, the website said. The program will be offered in two regions — Central New Hampshire (Canterbury, Andover, Warner, etc.) and the Seacoast (Portsmouth and the vicinity), the email said. Apply at nhpreservation.org/internship-program by Jan. 24 for the February week and March 14 for the April week, the website said. 🌩

The New England Petite Pageant will be held Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in **Concord**). The pageant is open to women of all ages who are 5 foot 6 inches and under. See newenglandpetite.com.

St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in **Manchester** will hold an Apokriatiko Celebration (a Greek Mardi Gras) on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 7 to 10 p.m. in the church hall featuring music from The Salonica Boys with Greek and American dancing, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The cost is a \$25 donation per person (children 12 and under get in free). Call 622-9113 for information.

Nashua Fire Rescue will hold an "Adult Field Trip" with the Nashua Fire Marshal on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 9 a.m. Meet at the fire station at 70 E. Hollis St. in **Nashua** on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 9 a.m. to learn more about the Nashua Fire Marshal's office, tour the station and get fire safety tips, according to a newsletter from Great American Downtown Nashua.

Queen City Rotary Club will hold its annual Comedy Bowl on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 6 p.m. at St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral in **Manchester**. The event will feature a buffet dinner, comedy show, raffle, silent auction and cash bar, according to a club press release. Tickets cost \$50 per person and can be purchased on eventbrite.com, search "2025 Comedy Bowl," the release said. The comedian line-up includes Harrison Stebbins, Rob Steen and Tim McKeever, the release said. See queencityrotary.org.



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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Burns Night

Scottish Arts celebrates a night for the poet

Claire MacPherson is the president of Scottish Arts, an organization that has taught and preserved a myriad of Scottish musical traditions since 1984, including Highland dance, piping, drums and Scottish fiddle. Lezlie Webster, the founder of the organization, also provides weekly instruction to the New Hampshire Police Band. They host the Indoor Scottish Festival in April in Manchester as well as the Quechee Scottish Games and Festival in August in Vermont. On Saturday, Jan. 18, they will be celebrating the 18th-century Scottish poet Robert Burns with Burns Night at Castleton in Windham. MacPherson spoke to the Hippo about the event. Visit scottisharts.org or call 227-0207 for more information.

Q: What exactly is Burns Night?

It's really a celebration of Scotland's most beloved poet, Robert Burns. It happens around his birthday, which was the 25th of January, 1759. People gather together and celebrate his life and works. The night typically follows quite a set pattern, so it starts off with a welcome to dinner and then the haggis is piped out. We have something called the Selkirk Grace, which is a little poem that's typically recited and then someone will do the "Address to [a] Haggis," which was one of his famous poems. ... then the speeches begin.



Previous Burns Night.

One of the first speeches will be 'The Immortal Memory,' which is kind of the main speech of the night and typically follows a pattern of talking about Robert Burns and highlighting some of his works. The person giving the speech can take it wherever they want to go, but it would typically involve a deeper dive into some of his poems or some aspects of him, because he covered so many different topics for his works.... Interspersed throughout the evening are some poetry readings. The night will usually end with a rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne,' which was his, what you could look at as a world anthem, really, because everyone sings it to bring in the new year. We typically have a lot of music in there as well, because he wasn't just a poet.

It began as a Burns supper in a place in Edinburgh, and his friends would gather and just remember him and recite his poems because he is our national poet and our most beloved son. It just blossoms into this huge event.

Besides being a poet, who was Robert Burns?

He was a humanitarian. He was very proud of being Scottish. He's probably best known because he chose to write in the Scots dialect. He was really keeping that language alive and infusing pride in it. ... He did a tour of Scotland and he would pick up songs, maybe even just fragments of a song

that had been long forgotten, and he would go home and work on it and get a tune going. ... That way he was keeping our music alive, the words and the tunes, the old tunes. His songs are just as important as his poetry. He was an amazing lyricist as he was a poet. So ... because we're a school of music, we'll have a lot of music infused throughout the night.

Who will be performing music on Burns Night?

We're very lucky to have Kirsten Z. Cairns, who's coming to sing. She has the most beautiful voice. She will be singing some of her favourite Burns songs. Then we have Celtic Beats, who will be doing our traditional Scottish music. That's pipes and fiddle, drums. Then we always have a little bit of a treat where we have our pipe band join us. That's our sister organisation, the New Hampshire Pipes and Drums. We end our night on a Ceilidh, which typically means a dance. It has an older meaning to do with coming together and telling stories and some dancing and singing at somebody's house, but typically now the meaning is to get together at the end of the night to do set dances. So Lezlie, our founder, walks people through the steps and everyone gets involved. In fact, it's more fun if you don't know what you're doing. It's a great community feel to it.

Burns Night

Where: Castleton, 58 Enterprise Drive, Windham
When: Saturday, Jan. 18. Cocktail hour 5 to 6 p.m. Call to dinner 6:05 p.m. Ceilidh 8 p.m.

What is Scottish Arts and what do you all teach there?

Predominantly, we are a school of Scottish music and dance. We have about 50 students at the moment doing bagpipes with

CONTINUED ON PG 14 ▶

Day and Kelly go for CFP title



The Big Story – Will it be Ryan's Day vs. ND? It's one win to go for former Central High School QBs **Ryan Day** and **Chip Kelly**. The '90s QB and Offensive Coordinator duo at UNH

get their shot at winning the CFP national championship Monday in Atlanta when Ohio State faces Notre Dame.

OSU got there behind a 14-point fourth quarter to earn a methodical 28-14 win over Texas, with the decisive blow being defensive end **Jack Sawyer** turning his strip sack of **Quinn Ewers** into an 83-yard scoop and score with 2:13 left. ND got there with a 27-24 win over Penn State.

The game comes your way at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN.

Sports 101: Dustin Pedroia is one of eight players to win Rookie of the Year, win an MVP award and be on two World Series winners. Name the other seven.

News Item – Big Story II: It is the one talk radio buzzed about all week: who would be the Patriots' new head coach. It turned out to be a return to the good old days in **Mike Vrabel**. No surprise there, and news that it was the three-time Super Bowl winner was met mostly with cheers thanks to his impressive six-year stint as Tennessee Titans coach between 2018 and 2023.

News Item – Interesting Rumor: It's the one where Raiders minority owner **Tom Brady** may be interested in a reunion with **Bill Belichick** as HC of the LVRs.

Yes, he's now HC at North Carolina. But it's not like he hasn't walked out on a new job before. Like when he was HC of the NYJs for one day. All it would take is paying off his \$10 million buyout, which is NFL chump change these days. No way, you say? Maybe, but stranger things have happened.

News Item – Playoff Notes:

Patriots fans couldn't miss the barf-inducing nine catches for 197 yards by **Ladd McConkey** on Saturday. Yes, the same Ladd the Patriots handed the Chargers by trading out of the 34th pick where L.A. got him, so NE could take **Ja'Lynn Polk** three picks later. Whose *entire* rookie season — eight catches for 87 yards — didn't match what McConkey did Saturday.

The Ravens ran for an astonishing 299 yards vs. Pittsburgh, led by **Derrick Henry**'s 186. That was the third time he ran for 150+ in the playoffs to tie **Terrell Davis** for most times doing that.

Hope the analytics "always go for it on

fourth down no matter what" goofballs noticed that passing on two chip shot FG's inside their five-yard line for two failed go-for-it attempts nearly cost Washington their win vs. Tampa Bay. It worked once for a TD in three tries, giving them a temporary 20-17 lead. Which TB soon made 20-20 with a FG. However, if Washington had gone for the three chip shot FG's it would have been 22-20 and they wouldn't have needed total luck to survive the bad coaching with a doinked-off-the-crossbar FG that barely trickled over as time expired.

The Numbers:

2nd & 40 – the you-don't-see-this-every-day situation Houston found itself in after a series of penalties took the ball from the 12-yard line to the other side of mid-field. And they still almost got the first down, falling four yards short, leading to a FG.

4 – interceptions thrown by Chargers QB **Justin Herbert** vs. Houston after throwing only three in 17 regular season games in 2024.

... Of the NFL Season Awards

Thumbs Down – NFL and Amazon Prime: Bad form by the NFL to keep the Baltimore-Pittsburgh Wild Card game off regular TV in lieu of Prime Video. Fans should pay both back for that.

Sports 101 Answer: Frank Robinson, Pete Rose, Johnny Bench, Thurman Munson, Jose Canseco, Albert Pujols and Justin Verlander.

Final Thought – Vrabel's a Safer Choice but — : I have to say that despite Mike Vrabel being my favorite player in the first half of the Patriots dynasty, I was hoping for a guy with a background in developing young QBs and creative 21st-century offense to become the new Patriots coach.

But that doesn't mean he's a bad choice. Since track records matter, he's the safest choice because his 56-45 record in Tennessee shows he can win in the NFL. And I know he'll bring toughness to a team that needs it. But I wonder if owner **Bob Kraft** is living in the past and trying to recreate an era that's gone. Can Vrabel adapt? His Titans won by grounding and pounding behind all-time great **Derrick Henry**. He doesn't have that here or a line to do it even if he did. That makes the OC choice key. Hopefully he finds a guy who complements him the way **Ben Johnson** does **Dan Campbell** in Detroit. So while it's likely a good hire, I'll hold off on a grade until he rounds out his staff.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐼

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Opioid deaths down in Manchester and Nashua

As reported in a Jan. 7 online article by WMUR, deaths from opioid overdoses fell dramatically in New Hampshire's two largest cities in 2024. "According to American Medical Response, there were 46 suspected opioid deaths in Manchester in 2024, 21% fewer than in 2023," the story reported. "In Nashua, there were 20 suspected opioid deaths, marking a 49% drop. These are the lowest numbers since AMR (American Medical Response) began tracking them in 2015." In a related Dec. 13 story, WMUR reported that one factor in the drop in overdose deaths might be the increasing availability of emergency medication. "Narcan, also known as naloxone, can reverse a deadly opioid overdose. Today, it can be found in public buildings and first aid kits," that story read.

QOL score: +2

Comment: To see data from the New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative, a project of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Resources, regarding New Hampshire's drug use, visit dhhs.nh.gov.

Reading is up in Nashua

Nashua residents checked out significantly more books from the Nashua Public Library in 2024 than the previous year. In a Jan. 9 article, Nashua Ink Link reported a 12 percent increase in the Library's circulation. "We read nearly 44,000 more books than last year," Ink Link quoted Library Director Jennifer McCormic. According to the Library staff, the book that was checked out the most — *The Ride of Her Life: A True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last-Chance Journey Across America* by Elizabeth Letts — was read more than three times as often as the next most popular — 554 times, compared to 163 checkouts for *The Women* by Kristin Hannah.

QOL score: +1

Comment: For lists of the Library's most popular books by category, visit a Dec. 29 post on the Library's Facebook account at facebook.com/nashuapubliclibrary.

The long reach of long Covid

In a Jan. 9 blog post, the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute reported that according to a recent study, "long Covid" has had a substantial impact on New Hampshire's work force. "Longstanding symptoms resulting from initial Covid-19 infections and Post-Acute Covid-19, more commonly known as 'long-Covid,' may have kept several thousand Granite Staters from returning to work," the post read. "About 9,300 Granite Staters with current long-Covid symptoms may still experience impacts to their work, with approximately 5,300 workers reducing their hours and an estimated 4,000 leaving the workforce entirely." The state's relatively small population has exacerbated the effect of long-term Covid infection, Jessica Williams, a Policy Analyst with the Institute wrote. "With an average of only 20,000 residents unemployed and actively seeking work in 2024, long-Covid's impact on labor force participation may pose a significant challenge to New Hampshire's economic growth and prosperity."

QOL score: -2

Comment: To read the report, visit nhfpi.org/blog.

QOL score: 51

Net change: +1

QOL this week: 52

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JANUARY 16 AND BEYOND

Saturday, Jan. 18

Iconic jazz combo the **Branford Marsalis Quartet** will take the stage at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashua-centerforthearts.com) tonight at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$49 and are available through the Nashua Center website.



Hurling Club will hold its winter gala this evening from 7 to 11 p.m. at American Legion Hall 43 on Baboosic Lake Road in Merrimack. This first annual celebration brings together players, families and supporters to honor the achievements of the past hurling season and to kick off the new year with enthusiasm. Tickets begin at \$30 and are available through the club's website.

itol Center website.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

The Goffstown Public Library (2 High St., Goffstown, 497-2102, goffstownlibrary.com) will host a New Hampshire Humanities lecture on "A Taste of the Old Country in the New: Franco-Americans of Manchester" this evening at 6:30 p.m. Historian Robert Perreault will share stories about life in one of America's major Franco-American centers. This lecture is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Comedian and New Hampshire native **Sarah Silverman** will take the stage at the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) tonight at 8 p.m.



Save the Date! Friday, Jan. 24

The Hotel Concord and Intown Concord will host the seventh annual **Concord NH Winter Fest**, Friday, Jan. 24, and Saturday, Jan. 25. There will be ice-carving demonstrations, an ice-carving competition, a Food Truck Festival and more. This is an outdoor event, so come dressed for the winter weather. This year there will only be food-related vendors and event sponsors. Visit members.intownconcord.org/events.

Thursday, Jan. 16

Coffee & Kindness (105 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 833-221-1822, coffeeandkindness.co) will host an open mic tonight from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Come to watch or come to perform. The mic is open for music, poetry and comedy. Full drink and food service is available; please arrive early to order before the show starts.

treetart.org) will host a Vicus Vox (Latin for "Voice of the City") open mic session this evening at 6 p.m., where participants can showcase their vocal talents with the community. Signups are on a first-come-first-served basis. All content must be friendly for all ages. The cost for spectators and participants is \$5. Participants must fill out an application at tinyurl.com/4ckh3pzp.

Sunday, Jan. 19

The Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) will present an afternoon of **swing dancing**, beginning with swing dancing lessons at 3:30 p.m., followed by dancing at 4 p.m. The 19-piece New Hampshire Jazz Orchestra, led by Clayton "Skip" Poole, a 45-year veteran of the idiom, and acclaimed vocalist Laura Poole will provide the backdrop for the event. Tickets are \$30.75 and are available through the Cap-

Friday, Jan. 17

Positive Street Art (48 Bridge St., Nashua, 589-9003, positives-

Saturday, Jan. 18

The New Hampshire Wolves

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A LOOK AT WINTER MUSIC SERIES WARMING UP THE SEASON



By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

With snow flying as the winds whip and temperatures drop, now is a great time to head indoors and enjoy some live music.

In addition to the nationally and wider-regionally touring shows at the larger capacity venues, several smaller spots offer winter music series that showcase a musical experience that features more indie, niche and regional original music. As the venues are smaller (some as small as under a hundred, some accommodating a few hundred music-lovers especially if the crowd is standing), the shows often provide a chance to catch an act before they blow up like Noah Kahan. Sometimes, the milieu and the music are equally compelling. Sipping wine before sitting down for a concert at Hermit Woods wineries, for example, or looking at art before the music at the Andres Institute.

Many of the performers can be seen in area bars and restaurants, but at these shows they have the opportunity to play their own material. When Andrea Paquin and April Cushman are at Milk St. Studios, for example, they'll be able to draw from their own extensive catalogs instead of doing covers, something that's also true for all of the shows at The Livery. The Songwriter Roundup at Hermit Woods Winery pretty much exists to expose original voices who spend a lot of their time doing someone else's songs. If you like what you hear, buy a CD, it's the best way to support independent musicians. Whether it's a craving for rock, blues, folk, big band or traditional sounds from Ireland

or Ecuador, there's an option available.

The following is a look at upcoming concerts, from now to spring, and a few beyond.

Andres Institute of Art (16 Route 13, Brookline, andresinstitute.org)

This outdoor sculpture garden was once a ski resort. Fundraising concerts are held to keep admission free year-round. The upcoming schedule is an eclectic one, with Manchester alt rockers the Faith Ann Band, acoustic roots band Low Lily and pan-Latin Boston group Sol y Canto all playing. Institute President Kristi St. Laurent, who also books the shows, noted recently that the former ski lodge where the concerts happen is historic. "J. Geils played here, I have photographic proof of that," she said, adding it's perfect for concerts. "Musicians all want to come back, because they love the way the room sounds."

Saturday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. - Faith Ann Band and Rabbit Foot

Sunday, Feb. 9, 6 p.m. - The Sofferman Perspective

Sunday, March 2, 6 p.m. - Low Lily

Sunday, March 16, 6 p.m. - The Honey Bees

Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m. - Evan Goodrow

Saturday, April 19, 6 p.m. - Mighty Colors and Jamdemic (Earth Day Benefit)

Monday, April 28, 6 p.m. - Sol y Canto

Button Factory Stage (99 Islington St., Portsmouth, portsmouthnhtickets.com)

This intimate performing space located in the studios of Portsmouth Community Radio is as eclectic as the Seacoast music community it supports, with multiple genres appearing, and nationally touring artists often stopping by. Local shows include Mango Catch Collective on Jan. 25 and a raging punk rock show featuring Condition, Black Vinegar and The Saturn Cycle on Feb. 21, with unique Beatles tribute trio While My Guitar Gently Weeps the following night. Boston acid jazzers Bees Deluxe are there March 8.

Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m. - Alchemy with Hell Beach and Qvickdraw

Friday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m. - DJ Chad Banks and Friends

Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m. - Mother Nimbus with Mango Catch Collective

Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. - The Orrs with Twothousands

Friday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. - Anna May

Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. - Alexia Scott

Saturday, Feb. 15, 8 p.m. - Mango Catch!

Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m. - Condition with Black Vinegar and The Saturn Cycle

Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m. - While My Guitar Gently Weeps

Friday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m. - DJ Chad Banks and his DJ Friends

Friday, March 7, 8 p.m. - Complete Utter Opposite with Neurotic

Saturday, March 8, 8 p.m. - House Lights & Friends

Saturday, March 15, 8 p.m. - Bees Deluxe

Thursday, March 20, 8 p.m. - Matt Farley with Thin Lear, Niagara Moon, and Bird Friend

Sunday, March 23, 8 p.m. - Little Lies: A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

Thursday, April 10, 8 p.m. - Broommaker (formerly Teething Veils) & Eternal Slumber

Contoocook Cider Co. (656 Gould Hill Road, Contoocook, contoocookcider.com)

A bucolic room booked by NH Music Collective and run by a revered cidery. Music happens Saturdays and Sundays, with a long list of regional favorites stopping by.

NHMC, which helps independent musicians find gigs by working with pubs, restaurants and listening rooms, recently underwent a leadership change. Brad Myrick sold his stake to fellow co-founders John McArthur and his wife, Reva Tankle, to focus on his own music.

"It's a very amicable change of direction for the company," McArthur said in early January. "I've been trying to help him as much as I can with his performance career.... Brad is one of the best guitarists,

certainly in the Northeast, and he's a fabulous composer."

Brad Myrick, who's now devoting his time to performing, makes an appearance in mid-March. NHMC is also booking a series of shows at the BNH Stage in Concord this winter.

Also on tap is Ian Archibold, recently seen at a BNH Stage showcase concert. Sully Erna sideman and Joe Walsh doppelgänger Chris Lester is another highlight; he's there next month.

Sunday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. - Jack Ancora

Saturday, Feb. 1, 1 p.m. - Justin Cohn

Saturday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m. - Chris Lester

Saturday, March 1, 1 p.m. - Ian Archibold

Saturday, March 15, 1 p.m. - Dan Fallon

Sunday, March 16, 1 p.m. - Brad Myrick

Saturday, March 22, 1 p.m. - Alex Cohen

Sunday, March 23, 1 p.m. - Justin Cohn

Saturday, April 5, 1 p.m. - Tyler Levs

Saturday, April 12, 1 p.m. - Ryan Williamson

Saturday, April 19, 1 p.m. - Garrett Smith

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

The longest-running concert series in the state mixes old-school folkies like Ellis Paul, Garnet Rogers and Tom Pirozzoli, who conceived the whole thing back in the early '90s, with new faces like Sam Robbins and Brittany Moore. This small room sells out fast, so best to make reservations well in advance, especially for shows like bluesman Guy Davis on Feb. 13.

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. - New England Bluegrass Band

Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m. - Dinty Child and Mark Erelli

Thursday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m. - Guy Davis

Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. - Ellis Paul

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m. - Aztec Two Step 2.0

Thursday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. - Brittany Moore

Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. - Willy Porter and Tom Pirozzoli



Faith Ann Band. Courtesy photo.



Guy Davis. Courtesy photo.

Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m. - Lonesome Ace String Band

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. - Sam Robbins

Wednesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. - Garnet Rogers

Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. - Garnet Rogers

Goosefeathers Pub (1398 Route 103, Newbury, mountsunapee.com)

Kick back with the apres-ski crowd and enjoy a bountiful list of musicians curated by NHMC. Willy Chase, another singer-songwriter recently showcased at BNH Stage, has an early February set. In March, it's Mikey G, who also headlined the downtown Concord room. Other good bets are Rebecca Turmel Duo on Jan. 19, and The 603s on Feb. 22.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 3 p.m. - Ryan

Williamson

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2 p.m. - Rebecca Turmel Duo

Saturday, Jan. 25, 3 p.m. - Frontwoods

Saturday, Feb. 1, 3 p.m. - Tom Boisse

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m. - Willy Chase

Saturday, Feb. 8, 3 p.m. - Dave Clark

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2 p.m. - Andrea Paquin

Saturday, Feb. 15, 3 p.m. - Karen Grenier

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2 p.m. - Jack Ancora

Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. - The 603s

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. - Brad Myrick

Duo

Saturday, March 1, 3 p.m. - Joel Begin

Saturday, March 8, 3 p.m. - Mikey G

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

Curated and hosted by singer-songwriter Katie Dobbins, the winery's Wednesday Songwriter Roundup event will celebrate a two-year anniversary on Feb. 26, with Pete Downing and another artist sharing the spotlight with Dobbins. Shows are offered in tandem with a dinner that begins an hour before the music. Additional dates are anticipated. "I am coming down from the busy fall/winter show season," Dobbins texted recently. "I'm going to be working on more bookings."

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. - Grace Wallace Band

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. - Songwriter Roundup with Katie Dobbins, Dan Sirois and Patrick Synan

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. - Songwriter Roundup with Katie Dobbins, Pete Downing and TBA

Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m. - Songwriter Roundup with Katie Dobbins and TBA

Livery at Sunapee Harbor (58 Main St., Sunapee, nhmusiccollective.com)

Another NHMC-curated venue, this winter's concert season will see the return of Slim Volume, a young Beatlesque quartet that sold out the rustic Main Street space last year, as well as Charlie Chronopoulos playing an intimate set of original music. For those looking forward to summer on the lake, NHMC's John McArthur is planning a series there when it's warmer.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. - Jack & Tim

Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. - JD & the Stonemasons

Saturday, April 19, 7 p.m. - Slim Volume

Saturday, May 17, 7 p.m. - Charlie Chronopoulos

Milk St. Studios (6 Milk St., Dover, milkststudios.com)

An extension of a Seacoast recording studio modeled after The Record Co. in Boston, this listening room has local musi-

cians stretching out to play originals, though the Joni & Cat Tribute Show — Mitchell and Stevens, if anyone's wondering — on March 29 is an exception. An in-the-round concert featuring acoustic music from singer/songwriters Andrea Paquin and April Cushman on March 15 should be stellar.

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

Friday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m. - Groundspore

Saturday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m. - Lee & Dr.

G. + Catwolf

Saturday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. - STL Gold

Saturday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. - Jarred Garneau Group

Saturday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. - Andrea Paquin + April Cushman

Saturday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. - Amulus

Saturday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. - Joni & Cat Tribute Show (Nicole Gauthier & John Fuzek)

Saturday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. - Studia & Jed Allen + The Regals

Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, themusichall.org)

An extension of the larger venue with cabaret seating for dozens instead of hundreds in the audience, this downtown venue welcomes rising stars like indie rockers Certainly So and Americana singer/songwriter Liv Greene along with regional talent like




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folksinger Reed Foehl and jazz saxophonist Seba Molnar. Valentine's Day brings the romantic PMAC Jazz Night, with a bevy of Seacoast musicians including sax player Eric Klaxon, singer Taylor O'Donnell and keyboard treasure Mike Effenberger.

- Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m. - Seba Molnar
- Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m. - Reed Foehl
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m. - Lee DeWyze
- Friday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m. - Certainly So
- Saturday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. - Juanito Pascual
- Friday, Feb. 14, 8 p.m. - 18th Annual PMAC Jazz Night: Dream a Little Dream
- Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m. - Vance Gilbert
- Wednesday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m. - Johnny Cash's Birthday Bash with Scott Moreau
- Thursday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m. - Both Sides Now (Joni Mitchell & Leonard Cohen tribute)
- Friday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m. - Sam Robbins
- Saturday, March 1, 8 p.m. - Ellis Paul
- Friday, March 14, 8 p.m. - Liv Greene & Elise Leavy
- Tuesday, March 18, 8 p.m. - Jordan Tice
- Friday, March 21, 8 p.m. - Heather Maloney
- Sunday, March 23, 8 p.m. - Tyler Hilton
- Friday, March 28, 8 p.m. - Alice Howe & Freebo
- Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m. - Scott Kirby



Lee and Dr. G. Courtesy photo.

the monthly open mic at BNH Stage, and River Sang Wild, who perform for two days straight in early March. A word to the wise: Resort management cautions that things can change when the sap's running.

- Saturday, Jan. 18, 6 p.m. - Scott & Wally
- Saturday, Jan. 25, 6 p.m. - Young Guns
- Saturday, Feb. 1, 6 p.m. - Geoff & Wally
- Saturday, Feb. 8, 6 p.m. - Dan Fallon Band
- Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 p.m. - Scott & Wally
- Saturday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m. - Andrew North & the Rangers
- Saturday, March 1, 6 p.m. - Karen Grenier
- Saturday, March 8, 6 p.m. - River Sang Wild (also 3/9)
- Saturday, March 15, 6 p.m. - Rebecca Turmel Duo
- Saturday, March 22, 6 p.m. - Geoff & Wally

Nippo Lake Restaurant (88 Stagecoach Road, Barrington, nippobluegrass.com)

Acoustic music fans delight in the long-running series housed in a Barrington country club, which lasts from October through April. Some of the region's finest players show up for this Sunday evening tradition. Ahead are revered bluegrass band Lunch at the Dump, the always entertaining Rockspring and a couple of projects that include Scott & Betsy Heron, Little Wishbone and the Heron Bluegrass Co.

- Sunday, Jan. 19, 6 p.m. - Chicken Shack
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 6 p.m. - Unsung Heroes
- Sunday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m. - New England Bluegrass Band
- Sunday, Feb. 16, 6 p.m. - HydroGeo Trio
- Sunday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m. - Lunch at the Dump
- Sunday, March 2, 6 p.m. - Cordwood
- Sunday, March 9, 6 p.m. - High Range
- Sunday, March 16, 6 p.m. - Little Wishbone
- Sunday, March 23, 6 p.m. - Hot Skillet
- Sunday, March 30, 6 p.m. - Heron Bluegrass Co.
- Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m. - Cedar Mountain
- Sunday, April 13, 6 p.m. - Unsung Heroes
- Sunday, April 27, 6 p.m. - Rockspring

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

Another apres-ski series curated by NHMC. Shows to look forward to include Andrew North and the Rangers, who host

Pembroke City Limits (134 Main St., Pembroke, pembrokecitylimits.com)

Opened last summer by music maven Rob Azevedo, this is the newest addition to the region's live music scene, with a focus on local talent like the Irish band Black Pudding Rovers, singer-songwriter Paul Nelson and Vampire Bird, the latest project from Will Kindler, which went over so well in December that it will return March 9. "This spring, PCL will continue to introduce and reintroduce such incredible musicians," Azevedo said recently, while touting the venue's Sunday Jazz Sessions with Gary Smith.

- Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. - Chris Salemme
- Friday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m. - Todd Hearon Trio
- Saturday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. - Funk Night w/ Gary Smith & Friends
- Sunday, Jan. 19, 2 p.m. - Black Pudding Rovers
- Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m. - Paul Nelson
- Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m. - Colin Nevens
- Friday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. - Piano Man Jody Robichaud
- Saturday, Jan. 25, 3 p.m. - Arthur James
- Saturday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m. - The Honey Bees
- Sunday, Jan. 26, 1:30 p.m. - Stonemasons
- Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m. - Tequila Jim
- Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. - Gary's "Leg-

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

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m. - Let’s Get Sticky Rolling Stones Tribute

Thursday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m. - Timothy K Blues

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

Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m. - Mikey G

Saturday, Feb. 15, 4 p.m. - Angela Stewart

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m. - Dan Fallon & Company

Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. - Georgie-Jam Night

Friday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. - Faith Ann Acoustic

Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m. - Vampire Bird (Will Kindler)

Friday, March 14, 7 p.m. - Cinnamon Jazz Trio

Sunapee Community Coffee House (9 Lower Main St., Sunapee, sunapeecoffee-house.org)

This is another series that’s been around a very long time, located in the basement of a Methodist church. It’s a pass-the-hat affair; bring a Hamilton to help out the artists. The effort encourages new and emerging talent, which means New Hampshire’s Noah Kahan might appear on their way to greater fame.

Friday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. - Hubby Jenkins

Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. - Click Horning

Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. - Tommy Crawford

Friday, March 14, 7 p.m. - Nate Goyette

Friday, March 28, 7 p.m. - White Mountain Ceili Band

Friday, April 11, 7 p.m. - E J Tretter

Friday, April 25, 7 p.m. - Halley Neal Group

Twin Barns Brewing (194 DW Highway, Meredith, twinbarnsbrewing.com)

Craft beer and live music pair well at this NHMC-curated venue. Upcoming are singer-songwriter Temple Mountain and Lakes Region duo The Sweetbloods, as well as rising stars Taylor Hughes and Dakota Smart.

Friday, Jan. 17, 5 p.m. - Tom Boisse

Saturday, Jan. 18, 5 p.m. - Temple Mountain

Friday, Jan. 24, 5 p.m. - Kat Ivy

Saturday, Jan. 25, 5 p.m. - Garrett Smith

Friday, Jan. 31, 5 p.m. - Freddie Catalfo

Saturday, Feb. 1, 5 p.m. - Karen Grenier

Friday, Feb. 7, 5 p.m. - Taylor Hughes

Saturday, Feb. 8, 5 p.m. - Rebecca Turmel

Friday, Feb. 14, 5 p.m. - The Sweetbloods

Friday, Feb. 14, 5 p.m. - Paul Driscoll

Saturday, Feb. 15, 5 p.m. - Dakota Smart

Friday, Feb. 21, 5 p.m. - Ciera MacKenzie

Saturday, Feb. 22, 5 p.m. - Jack Ancora

Friday, Feb. 28, 5 p.m. - Jackie Lee

Saturday, March 1, 5 p.m. - Dave Clark

Friday, March 7, 5 p.m. - Rock Dove



Katie Dobbins. Courtesy photo.

Saturday, March 8, 5 p.m. - Andrea Paquin

Saturday, March 15, 5 p.m. - Chris Torrey

Friday, March 21, 5 p.m. - Willy Chase

Saturday, March 22, 5 p.m. - Kyle McGuinness

Friday, March 28, 5 p.m. - Tyler Levs

Saturday, March 29, 5 p.m. - Garrett Smith

Friday, April 4, 5 p.m. - Tom Boisse

Saturday, April 5, 5 p.m. - Justin Federico

Friday, April 11, 5 p.m. - Rebecca Turmel

Saturday, April 12, 5 p.m. - Temple Mountain

Word Barn (66 Newfields Road, Exeter, thewordbarn.com)

Tucked at the end of a twisty road in Exeter, this venue is the perfect place to catch an under-the-radar star in the making, along with local treasures like Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki’s Trio, Will Evans and The Wolff Sisters. The shows here frequently sell out, so it’s best to act early for artists like Liz Longley and Joe Crookson.

Saturday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m. - Winter Warmer with Erica Brown & The Bluegrass Connection

Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m. - Rakish and Nate Sabat

Friday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. - Dave Gunning and J.P. Cormier Duo

Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m. - Soggy Po’ Boys

Sunday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m. - Will Evans

Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. - Genticorum

Friday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m. - The Wolff Sisters

Sunday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. - Eli West & The Clements Brothers

Friday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. - Jordan TW Trio

Saturday, March 1, 7 p.m. - David Howley (We Banjo 3)

Friday, March 7, 7 p.m. - Joe Crookson

Saturday, March 8, 7 p.m. - Chatham Rabbits

Sunday, March 23, 7 p.m. - Liz Longley

Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m. - Matthew & the Atlas. 🐾

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Ebony and ivory legends

Piano Men (and women) opens at Palace

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

An upcoming Palace Theatre production is more a musical canvas than a show, and it's one that Director Carl Rajotte has painted before. *Piano Men* was first presented as *The Four Piano Men* in 2011. Conceived, written and choreographed by Rajotte, it featured songs from Elton John, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder and Queen, via frontman Freddie Mercury.

Since then it's changed and evolved, with Ray Charles and Phil Collins among the ivory tinklers tributed in the show, last done in 2023. Act 1 in this year's production spotlights old-time rock 'n' rollers Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard, then pivots to Barry Manilow. Subsequent acts focus on the original four and two women, Carole King and Lady Gaga.

The female roles will be played by the director's sister, Michelle Rajotte, a Palace regular.

Piano Men

When: Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 & 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Feb. 9, and Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester

Tickets: \$35 and up at palacetheatre.org

"It's funny too, because I did a Gaga section a long time ago, maybe 2012, in a show called *Royalty of Rock and Pop*," Carl Rajotte said by phone during a break from rehearsals. "She did Gaga and just fell in love with her back then."

The actor and musician playing the Billy Joel role has a lot of experience. John Abrams performed as Joel in the national tour of the jukebox musical *Movin' Out*. Abrams will also cover the Elton John material. Another Palace veteran, GE Enrique, is playing both the Stevie Wonder and Freddie Mercury roles, along with serving as the show's Music Director.

This will be the sixth time that the Palace has done *Piano Men* in some form; Enrique has worked on three.

What keeps Rajotte returning to the show? "I've fallen in love with all these artists that we have on stage because they're good at telling a story," he said, "which lends itself to theater. There are lots of times in the show when it's just the piano and the band, but we have seven talented dancers, and they tell a story through dance throughout the whole night."

The dance ensemble includes three men and four women. Andy Kastrati was in the Palace's recent production of *Dancing Queens*, as was Savannah Enoch. Julia



Piano Men. Photo by Jeff Shaw.

Grubbs, who danced in *Piano Men* in 2020, is a CPA by day — "she can shimmy and do your taxes," quipped Rajotte — and Rachel Muhleisen is featured on Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely." Peter Murphy and Annie Wogisch round out the hoofers.

With women having a moment in the musical world — Taylor Swift, Chappell Roan, Beyonce and others are dominating — Rajotte is pleased that the show is now piano men and women. "I'm really excited to bring the new stuff to the audience, the Carole King and the Gaga," he said. "We were just finishing up Carole King's section today. It's just so fun to just go back to the '60s, find that retro feel and put it on our video wall."

He's also happy with the current season, which will continue with *Jimmy Buffett's Escape to Margaritaville* on Feb. 28 followed by *Jesus Christ Superstar* in late April. 2024/25's final production, *A Cho-*

rus Line, runs from May 30 to June 22.

"It's about halfway done, and I feel like I just started," Rajotte exclaimed in disbelief.

Perennial favorite *A Christmas Carol* was extended to the end of the month, a successful experiment that will probably be repeated next year. Rajotte ran the lighting board for that final weekend so his stage manager could be home for the holiday. At the end of the show Palace CEO Peter Ramsey reminded him that the season was at a midpoint.

"That hit me like a brick wall," he said, "But, yeah, I feel like it's been a really good season so far. *Oliver* was a wonderful artistic piece that we were able to bring to the stage, and *Jersey Boys* was a crowd-pleaser, with great music. *A Christmas Carol* is our tradition that everyone loves, and it was attended really great the whole run." 🌟

Art

Exhibits

- **"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. Visit outerspacearts.xyz. The gallery is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to its Facebook page.
- **"Layers & Moments"** featuring selections from Ian Trask's "Strange Histories" and Ryan Swedenborg's "Winks" collection is on display at See Saw Art (66 Hanover St., Manchester; seesaw.gallery) through Sunday, Jan. 26. The gallery is open Fridays from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

- **"Dan Dailey: Impressions of the Human Spirit,"** featuring the works of Dan Dailey, will be on display at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester; currier.org) through Feb. 2. The Currier is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **"Stitched Together: Friendship, Feminism and Craft / Laura Morrison and Maureen Redmond-Scura"** runs through Saturday, Feb. 8, at Two Villages Art Society (846 Main St., Concord; twovillagesart.org). The gallery is open Thursdays through Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.
- **"Olga de Amaral: Everything is Construction and Color"** featuring works by the abstract artist from Latin America who "works

with materials that she sources locally, such as raw wool, wood branches, luffa, horsehair, plastic, and most notably, gold" at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org, 669-6144) on view through Sunday, Feb. 16.

- **"Painting the Natural Landscape Exhibit"** from artist Diane Crespo will run at New Hampshire Audubon at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord; nhaudubon.org) until Saturday, Feb. 22, according to the NH Audubon calendar. The center is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **"Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts: A Distant Conversation"** on display at the Cur-

rier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester; currier.org) through Feb. 23. The Currier is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **"The Legend of the Poinsettia: Paintings From Tomie DePaola's Holiday Classic"** will be on display at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester; currier.org) through the end of February. The Currier is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **"Wildlife of New Hampshire Exhibit"** featuring the photography of Cameron Johnson of Dover at the New Hampshire Audubon's Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way, Auburn; nhaudubon.org) through Saturday, March 1.

The center is open Wednesdays through Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **"What/How Do We See?"** is the winter exhibition at Art 3 Gallery (44 W. Brook St., Manchester; art3gallery.com). "In this exhibit, the viewer is asked to consider not only the subject matter ("What do we see?") but also the process behind it ("How do we see?")," according to the website. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Theater

- **"Dead Air,"** a murder mystery presented by Cue Zero Theatre as a fundraiser for the Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester, on

Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org). "You'll take part in a 50th anniversary live radio broadcast and celebration for WEZ-Y, hosted by Guy Godfry, set in 2004. You have been assigned the role of the live studio audience and are witness to something that goes terribly wrong," according to the website. Tickets cost \$50 and include hors d'oeuvres. See cztheatre.com.

- **"Grease, school edition"** will be presented by the Palace Youth Theatre on Wednesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 22 through Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org).

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 6

Lezlie Webster, who's our founder and bagpiping teacher. She's also a judge. She's as highly qualified as possible to be, so our students are really getting an amazing pipe instruction from her. We have about seven Highland dancers at the moment. Then we have drumming, which we do through our sister organization. The lessons are done through the New Hampshire Pipes and

Drums, which is separate but connected to us. A lot of our pipers end up going into that pipe band. Drumming is done through that [too] and that's snare, tenor and bass drumming. We also have fiddle lessons as well. That's like violin, but it's a Scottish fiddle.

Do you all have any other events coming up?

We run some events throughout the year. So the first event that we have coming up is the Indoor Festival, which will be at Manchester Memorial High School and that will be on April 12. ... There will be the usual solo piping, pipe band competition and then dancing and drumming. There will also be some workshops we are going to put on for our students too, just to help enhance their

instruction. We have some amazing judges coming to that, Bruce Gandy and Bob Worrall, who is a legend in the world of piping in Glasgow. He's hosted that for a long time, and then we also have a little judges' event performance at the end. That's really a treat to see some world-class professionals playing the pipe at the end of the event.

—Zachary Lewis 🌟

THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Look within:** The Women's Caucus for Art/New Hampshire and Kimball Jenkins present "The Invincible Within" Saturday, Jan. 18, through Thursday, Feb. 27, at Kimball Jenkins Carriage House and Mansion (266 N. Main St. in Concord; kimballjenkins.com). The exhibition will feature nearly 75 pieces including paintings, printmaking, photography, fiber art, sculpture and other media, according to a press release. The exhibition is on view on Wednesdays (Jan. 22, through Feb. 26, except for Feb. 5) from 2 to 6 p.m.; Thursdays (Jan. 30 through Feb. 27, except for Feb. 6) from 4 to 6 p.m.; Friday, Feb., 7, from 4 to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Jan. 18, Feb. 1 and Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and as part of the reception on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 5 to 7 p.m., the release said. The exhibition will also be on display during the Concord Garden Club's "Art and Bloom" show on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 2 to 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **MLK Celebration:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) will hold its "Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day" on Monday, Jan. 20. The museum will be open, free admission, from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The day will "celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., the vision of Black American artists, and the power of self-expression," and is hosted in partnership with volunteers from the Racial Unity Team with the support of Citizens, according to the museum's website. The day will feature an educator-designed art activity; tours of Black American artists in the museum's collection; a presentation from Dr. Kenneth Nivison, history professor at Southern New Hampshire University, on "The Promissory Note: Selma, Voting Rights, and the Work of Equality," and spoken-word poetry performed by Manchester West High School students, the website said.

• **Winter exhibit:** Four new artists have their works on display at the Sandy Cleary Community Art Gallery in the lobby of the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashuacenterforthearts.com). The winter artists are Kathy Bouchard, Rebecca Fredrickson, Carolyn Maul and Denise Thompson-Coutu, according to a Facebook post from the Center.

• **Author visit:** Rebecca Dinerstein Knight, author of 2015's *The Sunlit Night* (which was made into a movie starring Jen-



Women's Caucus for Art "The Invincible Within" at Kimball Jenkins.

ny Slate) as well as 2020's *Hex* and a 2012 collection of poems called *Lofoten*, will speak at the Monadnock Writers' Group's monthly speaker series on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 9:45 a.m. at Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St. in Peterborough, according to a press release. See more about the author at rebeccadinersteinknight.com. The event is free and open to the public; see monadnockwriters.org.

• **Movement:** Truepenney Arts will hold a workshop on "Power and Presence Through Bone Awareness" on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will be facilitated by Truepenney's Michael Cobb, according to an email notice that describes it this way: "Our bones provide a physical foundation to draw upon for acting, performance, presentation and life. Come explore and revitalize your relationship with your skeletal structure!" The workshop is designed for ages 16 and up and will be held at Diamond Roling & Movement Studio (210 N. State St. in Concord); the cost is a suggested \$30. Email truepenney@gmail.com to reserve a spot.

• **Camera photography:** "More Exploring Photography," a six-week series led by local photographer Alan MacRae, will take place at The Belknap Mill (25 Beacon St. East in Laconia; 524-8813, belknapmill.org). The series starts Thursday, Jan. 30, and runs Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The class "will be an adventure looking at different areas of photography, structured around the interests of the group members," according to a press release. Bring a camera (not a cell phone camera) that allows you to adjust the aperture, shutter speed and ISO settings, the release said. Register at belknapmill.org/classes. The cost is \$200, according to the website. 📷

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE Gardens of 2024 and 2025

Coming up: more cardoon, better record-keeping

— THE GARDENING GUY —

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

I'm not a big fan of unrealistic New Year's resolu-

tions such as "keep my papers organized and desk tidy," for example. But I do like to spend some time each January reflecting on the gardens of the past year and making decisions about what I will do in the coming months.

Let's start in the vegetable garden. In 2024 I planted about 24 kale plants of all colors. In 2025, I shall be more moderate. Yes, kale is healthy for us and freezes well, but I was lax in picking and freezing it in the fall, and wasted some. Shame on me. I use it mainly in stews and soups, or frozen in smoothies.

A new salad green I loved and which, unlike lettuce, never bolted or bloomed, is sold as dandelion. No, it's not the dandelion we have in the lawn. It's an Italian "dandelion" that is actually a different species. It is sold fresh in our Coop, I tried it and liked it, so I started some from seed indoors last March, a variety I think is called 'Clio' from Johnny's Selected Seeds. The leaves get to be 12 to 16 inches long, and they will regrow if cut, so I harvested it all summer and well into the fall and it never blossomed. I shall plant six plants again this year. FYI: It tolerates some shade.

Also on the vegetable front, I grew cardoon this year and will do it again. It is a very large leafy plant in the artichoke family. It does not bloom like artichokes, but you eat the midribs of the 3-foot-long leaves in fall. I chopped the midribs, boiled till tender, and baked in a cheese sauce. They tasted just like artichokes but created a lot more food.

This past summer was sunny and, for the most part, dry. We had a great tomato crop, and our flowers performed well too. I did have to water new plantings, as we got little rain.

We are out of sunny spots to add shrubs, so in 2024 we dug out a patch of goutweed — my nemesis — and planted nine shrubs and a Japanese red maple in an area of part shade, part sun. I was careful to water daily for two weeks, and then twice a week for the rest of the summer. The shrubs included two native viburnums and two mountain laurels, and three native hydrangeas, including a great variety for shade called 'Haas Halo' (H. arborescens). All did well.

The viburnums are Zone 5 and I have mostly considered our location a Zone 4



Cardoon has silver leaves and is easy to grow. Start from seed indoors early. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

(with temperatures most winters colder than minus 20). But in recent years we have not seen lows of even minus 20 degrees, so I am willing to try some Zone 5 plants. Elsewhere I planted a kousa dogwood, a Zone 5 plant that I have tried and lost to winterkill more than once. The Stewartia tree I planted three or four years ago is also Zone 5 but is doing nicely. I'll be 79 in April, and by gum, I'm ready to take some chances.

What else worked this past year? Opening our gardens to visitors. We worked hard in the spring to rid ourselves of weeds, sharpen edges of beds, and fill in empty spots. We opened our gardens on select days to various groups and invited friends for a glass of wine and a walk around with us in the early evening. No, our gardens were not perfect — none ever is — but these events were a great time. Try it!

I've had three honeyberry plants for three or four years now but have not gotten any berries as yet. The bushes (Lonicera caerulea) are in the honeysuckle family and the blue berries are very tasty, I've been given some. But so far I have not been able to pick my own. They have not earned their place. I shall tell them this spring to produce berries or they will be gone. I've been told that birds love them and will pick them before they are fully sweet and ready for me to eat. The berries turn blue, but are not ripe for a while after that.

The Catalpa tree I planted six years ago as an 8-foot-tall tree is now 35 feet tall and provides shade for us to sit and relax. It is a great tree, blossoming in July. I prune the top each year now to keep it from reaching its 60-foot-tall potential. It is a bit weak wood, so I want to keep it from getting too big. The shade it provides encourages me to sit and relax in the garden, something I want to do more often in 2025.

I am saying a sad farewell to my Merrill

CONTINUED ON PG 17 ►

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Museum fun

• If you're looking for something to do this Friday, the Children's Museum of New Hampshire (6 Washington St. in Dover; childrens-museum.org) offers **Science Friday** programming, with special drop-in programs and activities at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. (to accommodate both the morning session from 9 a.m. to noon and the afternoon session from 1 to 4 p.m.). Reserve a spot online in advance; admission for everyone over 12 months is \$14.50 per person, \$12.50 for 65+.

• The Seacoast Science Center (570 Ocean Blvd. in Rye, seacoastsciencecenter.org) will hold a free nature program about the **"Giants of the Sea"** on Friday, Jan. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. Learn about what makes whales special and sign up (at the event; signup starts at 4 p.m.) for a 5 p.m. guide program with Katahdin, the inflatable North Atlantic Right Whale, according to an email from the center.

• Normally closed on Mondays during the winter, the **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com) will be open to the public on Monday, Jan. 20, from 10:30 to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$13 for adults, \$12 for 62+ and students age 13-college, and \$10 for kids ages 3 to 12. Planetarium shows are an additional \$7; see the website for the current offerings and times.

More day-off offerings

• Cowbunga's (725 Huse Road in Manchester; cowbungas.com) is offering **vacation day bouncing** on Monday, Jan. 20, with hour blocks for \$15 starting at 10 a.m. On Friday, Jan. 17, Cowbunga's offers its **Friday Night Fun**, with two-hour jump blocks offered for \$20 between 5 and 8 p.m. (adults and infants get in free with paying child) and visits by costumed characters.

• **Krazy Kids** (60 Sheep Davis Road in Pembroke; krazykids.com) is also open special hours for Monday, Jan. 20 — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Two-hour admission costs \$15 for kids, \$5 for adults (required jump socks cost \$4 per pair).

Save the date

• The New Hampshire Historical Society (30 Park St. in Concord; nhhistory.org) will offer a family program called **"Kids Do Family History"** on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 2 to 4 p.m. "This workshop ... will introduce kids to genealogy basics, such as creating a family tree, researching family records, and preserving family memories. This program is geared for kids ages 10-13, but all ages are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult," the release said. The event is free but register in advance via the website.

• Kimball Jenkins (266 N. Main St. in Concord; kimballjenkins.com) has **half-day February break week classes** for ages 7 to 14. For \$198, ages 7 to 10 (9 a.m. to noon) and ages 11 to 14 (1 to 4 p.m.) will "rotate through a diverse array of artistic mediums with each class featuring an art activity that aligns with our arctic theme," according to the website, where you can find more information and enroll. 🍷

and stands about 60 feet tall and nearly 40 feet across at the crown. But it seems to have died last summer and unless it miraculously recovers in the spring I shall have it cut down. Sigh.

OK, time for one last resolution: I will keep better records in 2025. I just haven't found the right way to keep them. I start a yearly notebook, and record some plants. But not all. I'm often too busy working in the garden and plan to do it later. My camera is a good way to record things and I take photos of everything that blooms. But I have literally tens of thousands of photos, and most are largely just organized by date. This year I will do better. Happy gardening, and best wishes for 2025.

Henry's column appears monthly. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net or PO Box 364, Cornish Flat, NH 03746. 🍷



This Catalpa planted 6 years ago provides a nice shady spot to chat or rest. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 16

magnolia that I planted in 2004. It bloomed reliably each year on my birthday in late April with huge double white blossoms. The shiny green leaves were gorgeous all summer, and the buds in winter look like pussywillows on steroids. It has five stems

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Cheaper 'blends' could cost



By Ray Magliozzi
Dear Car Talk: Ever since Smokey Yunick recommended it in the 1970s, I've been using synthetic motor oil. Now, along comes something called a "synthetic blend." Nobody can tell me the ratio of synthetic oil to regular oil in a synthetic blend. Can you? — Ron

Nope. The oil companies don't make that information available. Perhaps it's not required to be disclosed because it comes under the guise of trade secrets. Or maybe it just falls under marketing-driven B.S.

Here's my guess: Most engines call for synthetic oil now. It's clearly superior to the dinosaur-based stuff we've used since shortly after the wheel was invented. Synthetic oil lubricates better and lasts about twice as long. And most companies that manufacture — and, more importantly, have to warranty — engines, insist you use it.

But it is a bit more expensive than conventional oil. So, in order to sell something at a lower price-point for, what's the term? Cheapskates! They came up with

this concept of "synthetic blend," which is a mixture of dinosaur oil and synthetic oil. Is it any better for your engine than pure conventional oil? I have no idea. If it is, it probably depends on how much synthetic is in the blend.

And since they won't tell us that, I think an educated consumer is wise to assume that it's a very small amount.

I mean, theoretically, they could put a teaspoon of synthetic oil in a quart of conventional oil and call it a "blend," right?

I have no idea if it's that little. But the fact that they keep that information secret suggests they're not particularly proud of the percentage of synthetic oil in their blends.

So, I'd absolutely recommend sticking to a full-synthetic oil, Ron. I mean you wouldn't buy partially pasteurized milk, right? Or partially galvanized steel? So don't buy slightly synthetic oil.

Synthetic is a little more expensive, but when compared to the cost of major repairs to your engine, it's dirt cheap, really.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🗨️

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Hi, Donna.
 I read your article each week in the Hippo.
 This chair has been in the family for a number of years.

When my mom and dad purchased their home in Everett, Mass., the original owners left this chair for them, along with other antique (now) furniture. Thought I'd ask your opinion on it.

Best,
 Joe

Dear Joe,
 In your subject title, you called this a devil's chair. It actually has a north wind face on it. History says it was meant to ward off evil spirits. You made me chuckle and I want you to know you're safe!

This kind of chair was sometimes called a throne chair and has lots of history. They were mostly made from oak and in a Black Forest style. Some had more detail than others. Even though they can date earlier I believe your



chair is from the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Values on them, Joe, depend on age, detail and, as always, condition. Yours looks to be all original. Most collectors prefer this. So the chair is in the \$200+ range. The fun part is the history of such chairs.

Thanks, Joe, for sharing with us. You put a smile on my face!

Note: it's always good to leave antiques and most collectible furniture in the original condition and finish if you can.
 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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142548



News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **Correction:** In the Jan. 9 issue of the Hippo, the hours for Eden’s Table Farm (240 Stark Highway N, Dunbarton, 774-1811, edenstablefarm.square.site) were incorrect on page 20. When it reopens on Feb. 5, Eden’s Table Farm will be open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Closed:** Live Free Refillery in Bedford has closed. “We have given this store everything we could,” a post on the business’ Facebook page read. The goal of the business was to allow customers to buy food staples and household products in bulk, using their own reusable containers.

• **Soon to close:** On its Facebook page Pipe Dream Brewing in Londonderry announced that it will close its doors effective Feb. 3, with the final day of operation on Feb. 2. “Huge thank you to our incredible employees who have made the past nine years unforgettable,” the post read, “pouring their hearts into every pint. To our loyal customers and members, thank you for your unwavering support and for being part of the Pipe Dream family.”

• **Vive la France:** Tickets are still available for New Hampshire Wine Week’s “Vive la France” French wine tasting and panel session Wednesday, Jan. 22, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Manchester Country Club (180 S. River Road, Bedford, 624-4096, manchestercountryclub.com). The evening will begin with a cocktail hour where guests can sample from more than 60 French wines, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session with several influential French wine importers and distributors. Tickets are \$65 and available through eventbrite.com.

• **Spring planning:** The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire will hold its annual winter conference, this year themed “Sowing Hope, Cultivating Joy,” on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Southern New Hampshire University. Chef David Vargas, owner of Vida Cantina in Portsmouth and Ore Nell’s Barbecue in Kittery, Maine, and a James Beard Foundation “Outstanding Chef America, 2023, semi-finalist,” will be the keynote speaker. A standard ticket is \$75; see nofanh.org for registration information and a schedule of events. 🍷

FOOD

Tasty events coming up

Food Bank raises funds

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Next week’s Winter Wine Spectacular is one of four major fundraising events for the New Hampshire Food Bank. Three of the four events — the Distiller’s Showcase in November, the Wine Spectacular in January, and the Steel Chef competition in March — are food- or drink-related. Together with a September golf tournament, these events allow the Food Bank to feed more people.

Nancy Mellitt is New Hampshire Food Bank’s Director of Development. She is one of the principal organizers of these fundraising events.

“The funds that we see from the Wine Spectacular,” she said, “will help us to ... purchase food — we’re purchasing about 30 percent more food this year over last year — for distribution. About one in 10 individuals in New Hampshire — one in seven children 18 and under — are food-insecure. Those [numbers come] from Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap, and those numbers are from 2022. We all know that grocery prices are very high, fuel is high, rents are high; so it’s just difficult for people to make ends meet. And sometimes they have to make a choice between shelter and food.”

According to statistics on New Hampshire Food Bank’s website, in 2023 the organization distributed 16.3 million pounds of food and, working with more than 400 partner agencies, served 13.6 million meals across New Hampshire.

Mellitt said that events like the Winter Wine Spectacular, which is put on by the New Hampshire Liquor Commission, are an important part of meeting that mission.

“We have a very great partnership with

the Liquor Commission,” she said, adding that it was the Commission that suggested this partnership. “The Liquor Commission asked the Food Bank if we would consider taking this event on. We recruit restaurants for individuals to have tastings, both in the expo and in the VIP room. We’re trying to help to solicit some auction items available for folks to bid on. And we help to recruit volunteers so that everything’s running smoothly and the guests have a fabulous experience.”

The Liquor Commission, for its part, donates 100 percent of the event’s proceeds to the Food Bank.

“The main driver of this program is that it’s a huge benefit,” said Mark Roy, Director of Marketing for the Liquor Commission. “Our beneficiary is our partner, the New Hampshire Food Bank. [The Distillers’ Showcase and the Wine Spectacular] are not only about educating our consumers about our products and our outlets and our business but it’s partnering with crucial people like the New Hampshire Food Bank. It’s a 360-degree encompassing feel-good event. You can come and have a good time and know that it’s going toward a good cause and something that New Hampshire and the Liquor Commission really supports.”



2024 Steel Chef Challenge winner Antonio Wormley. Courtesy photo.

The next event on Nancy Mellitt’s radar is the Steel Chef competition in March (nhfoodbank.org/steelchef), where 680 attendees will watch a live, timed cooking competition featuring prominent New Hampshire chefs. As the chefs compete against each other to prepare their best dishes featuring a mystery ingredient, guests will eat a special dinner curated by Celebrity Chef Marcus Samuelsson. Mellitt is a big fan.

“He was fabulous last year,” she said. “Of all of the chefs that we’ve had to date, he’s been the best. The first year a chef [hosts] this event is tough for them because they’ve never done it before; they still don’t really know what to anticipate. But Chef Sameulsson just blended in. It was amazing. It was really great to meet him and work with him and we’re looking forward to it again.”

Mellitt said tickets for Steel Chef will sell out early: “I would say they will sell out probably sometime in January.” 🍷

Food Bank events

19th Annual New England Winter Wine Spectacular

When: Friday, Jan. 23, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Doubletree Expo Center, 700 Elm St., Manchester

Tickets: available through eventbrite.com.

When: Monday, March 17

Tickets: available at nhfoodbank.org/steelchef

To learn more about food insecurity in New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Food Bank’s role in alleviating it, visit nhfoodbank.org/hunger-in-nh.

9th Annual Steel Chef event

‘Dry’ but not boring

Bringing flavor to Mocktail Month

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

You might not expect the New Hampshire Liquor Commission to be a supporter of “Dry January” — the trend of abstaining from alcohol for the month. But 2025 marks the Commission’s fifth year of partnering with area bars, restaurants and liquor

New Hampshire Mocktail Month

The Liquor Commission has recipes for zero-proof drinks posted on its website at explore.liquorandwineoutlets.com/live-free-and-host-responsibly.

brands to promote New Hampshire Mocktail Month.

“Mocktail” refers to a sophisticated adult beverage that is also alcohol-free. According to Mark Roy, the Liquor Commission’s Director of Marketing, alcohol-optional drinking has been growing in popularity.

“It’s been a growing movement, the idea of entertaining or celebrating responsibly,” Roy said. “[Mocktail Month] gives patrons and consumers the ability to go into [participating bars and restaurants] and enjoy alcohol-free or non-alcohol options along with their wives or spouses or friends who

choose to responsibly imbibe that evening, but they can enjoy it along with the same great flavors and the same look without that alcohol involved.”

Roy said Mocktail Month has grown, “from a handful of restaurants the first year to 70 restaurants this year. A lot of restaurants are getting on board, and it’s from every corner of the state ... They all feature mocktails on their menus. We highly recommend that you look for these on the menus and enjoy some of these great concoctions.”

Kristen Hancock is the Beverage Director

CONTINUED ON PG 22 ▶

IN THE KITCHEN

WITH AMY LABELLE



Amy LaBelle. Courtesy photo.

Amy LaBelle, co-owner of LaBelle Winery Amherst (345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898), LaBelle Winery Derry (14 Route 111, Derry, labellewinery.com), The Bistro at LaBelle Winery, and Americus Restaurant

"I got a start as a winemaker later in life than many people; it is a second career for me," LaBelle said. "I started out as a lawyer, and I had what I thought was my dream job at a major financial institution, but I took a trip to Canada and visited a winery in Nova Scotia and had a life-changing experience. Everything about it was so perfect — the wine, the food, the people, the whole wine-centered environment — I suddenly realized that it was what I really wanted to do with my life. It was a slow process, over 4,000 days, but every day of those 12 years I worked to move a little closer to my dream. Now the dream has expanded to include two wineries, each with their own restaurants. For me, food and wine are entirely interlinked. They are my twin passions."

What is your must-have kitchen item?

That is such a hard question! If I had to pick, though, I'd say salt. It is integral to everything I cook. It brings out the nuances of every flavor and helps me really be present in everything I eat. I like to use two types of sea salt, a fine salt for the actual cooking, and a coarse or flaky salt for finishing a dish. ...

What would you have for your last meal?

For me, it would be as much about where I ate it as what I ate. I'd eat a beef bourguignon in a cafe in Paris. ...

What is your favorite local place to eat?

It's a little self-promotional, but our own restaurant. ... A few weeks ago, my husband and I had a night to ourselves with no kids, and we were wondering where we should go to eat, and half an hour later, we found ourselves right here.

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

Martha Stewart is a hero of mine. ... She

pays such scrupulous attention to everything she does — her magazine, her recipes, everything her staff produces. I admire that level of commitment and spirit of perfectionism.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

Our menu is constantly changing as seasonal ingredients become available, but there are a few dishes that we keep on all the time. My favorite is Steak Frites. ...

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

It's probably because of the time of the year, but right now, we've had a big surge in demand for 'clean,' healthy foods. We've been working on several zero-alcohol mocktails ...

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

... Because my husband is South American, one of our favorites is empanadas. The beef on the inside and the fried exterior are fantastic. ... It's really labor-intensive, but we set up a production line. ...

Colombian Empanadas

Recipe from Amy LaBelle

Filling

- 2 pounds grilled steak tips or rib-eye, ground
 - 2 cups leftover boiled potatoes, smashed
 - 1 Tablespoon olive oil
 - ½ cup sliced onion
 - 2 teaspoons sea salt
 - 1 teaspoon Aleppo pepper
 - 1 Tablespoon cumin
 - 1 teaspoon black pepper
 - ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
 - ½ cup LaBelle Jalapeno Culinary Wine
- Caramelize the onion in olive oil. Remove from heat, and mix all ingredients together.

Dough

- 4 cups masa flour — blanca, *not* yellow!
 - 2 teaspoons sugar
 - ¾ cups hot water
 - 2 teaspoons sea salt
- Mix the dry ingredients, then make a well in the center. Gradually add the hot water, turning and mixing constantly, until it is the right consistency for rolling.

Making the empanadas:

Divide the dough into medium-sized balls, then roll out to 5- to 6-inch circles. Place filling on the dough, then fold to make half-circles, then seal the edges. Fry the empanadas in 350-degree oil, not crowding the pan, until golden brown. Repeat until all have been fried.

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FOOD



DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Flamingos and Briefcases

A zero-proof breakfast cocktail

3 ounces Ruby Red grapefruit juice
1 teaspoon dehydrated grapefruit juice powder – I use citrus powders to intensify fruit flavors in a recipe without throwing off the liquid ratios. This works really well in frostings and glazes. These powders can be found easily online. In this recipe, it's optional, but really does dial up the level of grapefruitiness.

2 ounces alcohol-free gin – I used Free Spirits this time, and it provided a mellow backnote of juniper to the proceedings. Because it is alcohol-free, it too can be easily ordered online, or even found in some supermarkets.

¾ ounce honey syrup (see below)
1/8 teaspoon rose water

Pour the grapefruit juice into a cocktail shaker, then stir in the grapefruit powder with a bar spoon or a pair of chopsticks. Mix vigorously for 15 or 20 seconds to make certain that the powder has dissolved completely. Avoid ice for the moment; this won't work as well in a cold solution.

Add the other ingredients, then dry shake them (this means to shake them without ice). Again, you are forcing an introduction here, and it will probably go better if the ingredients aren't keeping to themselves in separate corners, wearing coats and huddling around radiators.

Once everything is well mixed, add ice,

and shake it again. Strain into a coupé glass, and sip to some morning-themed music — Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" or Nina Simone's cover of "Here Comes the Sun," perhaps.

Because there is no actual alcohol involved, this is a really good breakfast cocktail.

I know, that term hurts a little to think about, but because the "gin" here is just a flavoring agent, this drink can be a very nice start to your day. It's pink, it's fruity but also little bracing, and there is a hint of perfume at the very end. Grapefruit, like most citrus, pairs well with almost any other ingredient, and the tiny hit of juniper from the alcohol-free gin puts a thoughtful spin on the combination. This scales up beautifully to a pitcher drink.

If the idea of a breakfast cocktail is still a bit uncomfortable, imagine this:

A team of clients is in your conference room for an early morning presentation. Your team and their team have worked together before, and they've been happy with your work, but you're still getting a sense of caution from them. You know that your presentation is solid, but you need them to approach it with an open mind.

After your assistant sets up the coffee and bagels on the table at the back of the room, she walks around the conference table, and places a coupe glass in each



Photo by John Fladd.

place, then fills each one halfway with this delicate pink cocktail from a martini pitcher. After your assurance that there is no alcohol involved, the senior member of the other team takes a tentative sip, pauses thoughtfully, then with one raised eyebrow takes a deeper sip and sighs, just a little, with pleasant surprise. The rest of the client team will take their cues from her, and a few minutes later that attitude of open-minded receptiveness will pay off when your slide presentation takes a turn to the unexpected, mixing sales charts with photos of armadillos and bagpipe music.

Honey Syrup

This is probably the easiest of syrups to make. Combine equal amounts of honey and boiling water, and stir to combine. Let it cool, then use for any number of beverages. The diluted honey will mix more readily with your tea or cocktail than it would at full strength. Mixed with plain club soda it makes an unexpected and delightful soda. 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 20

for Copper Door restaurants (in Bedford and Salem). She said Mocktail Month provides an opportunity for her restaurants to highlight something they do regularly.

"We always have mocktails available," Hancock said. "We have them on the menu all year long, but we [like] letting people know that we have these available. We try to stay seasonal with our flavors and be innovative with flavors but also be approachable."

So who comes up with these new drinks? "Well it's mostly me," Hancock said. "I generally come up with the mocktails and cocktails and then I take input from other bartenders or servers who come up with ideas. We try them out, and if the staff likes them we go for it."

She said seasonal ingredients are a source of inspiration. "We actually had a cocktail on our menu that I created that used some blueberry simple syrup and I just thought

that it would be lovely with our homemade lemonade. It would be a really nice seasonal combination of fun flavors. And it's been a huge hit. It was nice to carry over something that we use in a cocktail to then also use it in a non-alcoholic drink."

Hancock said her staff is extremely receptive to suggestions from customers.

"In addition to the mocktails that we feature on the menu, we're always open to do anything the guests want," she said. "We

make our homemade bloody mary mix, so we can always do a virgin bloody mary. We always have mint in-house, so I have a lot of times that people want to have a virgin raspberry mojito type of thing, and obviously our answer's 'Yes, so happily!' Sometimes a customer will ask, 'Oh, do you have any raspberries to add? Can I do that with lemonade and some soda water?' So if we have ingredients that the guests want to play around with, we're happy to do it." 🍷

Amethyst Night

A mocktail recipe from the New Hampshire Liquor Commission, invented by the 7-20-4 Lounge in Londonderry

Amethyst Night

2 ounces hibiscus tea
1 ounce pineapple juice
1 ounce grapefruit juice

0.75 ounce hibiscus simple syrup
0.75 ounce orgeat
0.5 ounce ginger syrup
Splash of lime juice

Combine all ingredients over ice in a cocktail shaker, shake, and serve in a rocks glass, with a dried tangerine wheel for garnish.

POP CULTURE

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Bumblefoot, Bumblefoot ... Returns! (Bumblefoot Music)



Ron 'Bumblefoot' Thal is a guitarist, producer, composer and educator whose career spans more than 30 years, highlighted by collaborations with Guns N' Roses, Asia, Sons of Apollo, and Whom Gods Destroy. In other words, you've assuredly heard his work but had no idea who he is. It's been 30 years since his debut solo album *Adventures Of Bumblefoot*, but — and I don't think I've ever used this hackneyed phrase in all my years of music-journo-ing, correct me if I'm wrong but I'm not — this was worth the wait, but only if you're a Guitar Player-reading nerd who wants to expand your

horizons past basic shredding methods. Guests on this one include Queen's Brian May (turning in a rather pedestrian blooz-rawk performance in "Once In Forever"), Steve Vai (the far more interesting stomp-thrasher "Monstruoso"), and Guthrie Govan (the epic-metal-washed "Anveshana"), but it's Thal's own otherworldly experimentation on numbers like "Simon In Space" that makes this a can't-miss for you wonks out there (don't try this at home). **A+** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

- Wow, folks, it's already Jan. 17, we'll be past this frost-Viking weather before you know it and I'll be in my glory again, eating overpriced clams and fish on York Beach while annoying tourists from Methuen and Allston intentionally park themselves in front of me, coagulating in beach umbrella encampments (they get sunburned anyway, every single time), just to ruin my view of Maine's peaceful waves and yelling seagulls! If there's a worse buzzkill than that it hasn't been invented yet, but I'd take it over the alternative, all the silly windy *Day After Tomorrow*-level mega-blasts of insta-freeze North Pole nonsense that's settled in lately, any day! Whatever, shut up, we're supposed to be talking about the new albums coming out on the 17th, like *Humanhood*, the new LP from Canadian revolving-door folkie band **The Weather Station**, can you hardly wait! This lady-fronted outfit has won and been nominated for several Canadian music awards, which is the musical equivalent of winning the Wiffle Ball World Series, but you know what, I'll listen to something from this new album anyway, in order to provide my frantic fans with the latest developments in obscure world music happenings! Hold it, the new single, "Neon Lights," is very good, to be honest, sort of a cross between Loreena McKennitt and Arcade Fire, aren't you tired of Canadian bands making very listenable music when we can't, so annoying! There's an urgent street-smart vibe to it, and bandleader/singer Tamara Lindeman puts her Canadian-music-award-nominated songwriting talents to the test, mopping the floor with the likes of Natalie Merchant. You'll like this tune if you're not in the habit of being intentionally obtuse.

- World-, um, I mean Europe-renowned singer-songwriter **David Gray** has won many awards that you didn't even know existed, but in his defense, he was also nominated for a few Grammys, including Best New Artist in 2002, obviously because the heavily medicated Grammy Award people had to fill up the nom list with nine sacrificial lambs to lose to Alicia Keys that year (private to a constant reader: naturally they didn't take Linkin Park seriously back then, and I still don't)! Who cares and whatnot, *Dear Life* is this British bloke's new album, eh wot, and it features the single "Plus and Minus," a duet with Talia Rae. It is a gentle AOR tune for soccer parents, comprising a chill vibe and debatable amount of mild listenability. At least it's not annoying, eh wot bob's your uncle?

- Lastly on the listy, it's the second posthumous album from Pittsburg jazz-rap/alt-hip-hopper **Mac Miller**, aka Delusional Thomas. *Balloonism* is the new album; it's as East Coast hip-hop as you could ever want, whatever that means to you. His family handled this release, which is very important to the handful of people who care about stuff like that. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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***The Cure for Women*, by Lydia Reeder** (St. Martin's Press, 286 pages)

Given some of the past practices of medicine, bloodletting and leeches and such, it's a wonder any of us are alive today. What's even more disturbing is how recent some of these strange medical practices are.

Take, for example, the "rest cure for women," a protocol of the 19th century in which women suffering from a raft of maladies — but mainly being thin and "short of blood" — were told to take to their beds, sometimes for months, where they were fed milk and raw eggs, and forbidden social interaction and "brain work."

While many women were actively harmed by such treatments, there were far worse things done to women under the guise of medicine in that era, even by physicians ostensibly devoted to women's health. The doctor credited with inventing the speculum, for example, once wrote, "If there was anything I hated, it was investigating the organs of the female pelvis." This physician was a showman in the vein of P.T. Barnum, performing operations in front of an enthralled audience, sometimes with the patients (often enslaved women) awake and screaming.

All this was occurring in a century in which smart and capable women were being denied entry to medical school because of the belief that they were not intellectually or psychologically equipped for the work, even though female midwives had been delivering babies for millennia.

The first woman to graduate from an American medical school, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, was admitted by mistake — her male classmates thought they were voting on her enrollment as a joke. Blackwell and her younger sister Emily, who also became a phy-

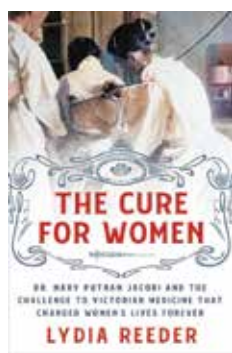
sician, are fairly well known today for their pioneering work improving the prospects of both patients and female doctors.

But Lydia Reeder argues that a lesser-known physician, Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi, also deserves history's acclaim. In *The Cure for Women*, Reeder explains how Jacobi, a contemporary of the Blackwells, took on the established beliefs about women's monthly cycles, which had been used as "evidence" of women's inferiority, and refuted them with data.

The daughter of the New York publishing scion George Palmer Putnam, Mary showed her capacity for medicine at age 9 when, after discovering a dead rat in their barn, she asked her mother if she could dissect it. Her mother said no, and her father did not think medicine was a proper career for women, but he had published a book by Elizabeth Blackwell and so consented to let his precocious daughter work at Blackwell's clinic.

Eventually Mary enrolled at one of the few educational opportunities available to her, the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, but she left "after she discovered she knew more about medicine than most of her instructors" and went on to graduate from a medical school in Paris. In one funny anecdote, her father sent her money there for a dress — she had to plead with him for permission to use the money to buy a microscope instead.

Upon returning to the States with a medical degree, Mary found work teaching at the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary and dedicated herself to evangelizing "a scientific spirit" among women. Unfortunately for modern sensibilities, that scientific spirit also included justification of vivisection, the dissection of live animals, which Jacobi would defend. It is, perhaps, the



one area in which her thinking was not visionary, although it might have helped establish her as a serious medical mind at the time.

She went on to marry a widower, Dr. Abraham Jacobi, a leading pediatrician in New York, and shortly thereafter became pregnant and worked throughout her pregnancy — refuting in real time

the prevailing thought that women were suited for domestic life and reproduction solely. She began conducting research to test and challenge views about women's capabilities during menstruation, and also to counter prescriptions of "the rest cure" as well as other medical practices of the time. She was also an advocate of sports and physical activity — as opposed to rest — to improve women's health.

Perhaps the best story about her is that she submitted a paper arguing that menstruation does not constitute "any temporary predisposition to either hysteria or insanity" to a prestigious Harvard University competition: the Boylston Medical Prize. Per the competition's instructions, the entry was submitted anonymously. She won, beating out hundreds of men. The work was later published by G.P. Putnam's Sons as "The Question of Rest for Women During Menstruation" and was widely praised.

Even as Mary advanced professionally, she was lauded publicly for being an excellent housekeeper, and she had three children, and suffered the loss of two — a daughter who died at birth and a son who died at age 7 from diphtheria — a terrible loss for any parent, but especially for two doctors who could not help their child and who wound up blaming each other. The death, Reeder wrote, created a "fault line between Mary and Abraham that

would, ultimately, never heal."

Almost 20 years later, Mary Putnam Jacobi would diagnose a brain tumor in herself, and spent the last years of her life writing a case study on it titled "Description of the Early Symptoms of the Meningeal Tumor Compressing the Cerebellum, from Which the Author Died."

Her life was clearly extraordinary and worthy of a biography, and Reeder's treatment is more than comprehensive — to a fault, at times.

Going back and forth between history and inventive narrative, in which Reeder imagines what might have happened in a scene, was the wrong approach for a book about women devoted to science. Their imagined thoughts and actions — such as, "Elizabeth Blackwell, M.D., paced back and forth in her drab Lower West Side apartment, stopping occasionally to glance through her parlor window at the blizzard swirling outside" — are simply unnecessary. The occasional asides into this literary construction serve no purpose other than befuddling the reader.

It is also a little odd that the central character of the book is not introduced in any substantial way until chapter 3.

The author is the great-granddaughter of a midwife who cared for women and children in rural Missouri early in the 20th century, at one point plunging her fingers down a child's throat to remove a safety pin. That midwife, Ellen Babb, no doubt had as many fascinating stories to tell as Dr. Mary Putnam Jacobi, despite the vast differences in their economic circumstances and training. *The Cure for Women* is a tribute to both of them — and a thumb in the eye to the 19th-century male doctor who wrote, "I said I did not believe it was best either for the sick or for society for women to be doctors."

B—Jennifer Graham 🍷

Book Author events

- **Amanda Grappone Osmer** will talk about her new book of biography and local history, *Grappone Automotive: The Founding*, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Mary Eisenhauer** will talk about her book *Reimagining Midlife* at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Matt Larson** will talk about his book *4000s by 40: Tackling Middle Age in the Mountains of New Hampshire* at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookery-

mht.com) on Saturday, Jan. 25, from 4 to 5 p.m.

- **Jeffrey Boutwell** will talk about his book, *Boutwell: Radical Republican and Champion of Democracy*, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 6:30 p.m.

Book events

- **Onyx Storm** midnight release party celebrating the release of the third book in Rebecca Yarros' *The Empyrean* series, at Balin Books (balinbooks.com) from 10 p.m. Jan. 20 to 1 a.m. Jan. 21, with snacks, games and fun. Book preorders are available at balinbooks.com
- **Onyx Storm** midnight release party celebrating the

release of the third book in Rebecca Yarros' *The Empyrean* series, at Barnes & Noble (1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557; 235 DW Highway, Nashua, 888-0533; 125 S. Broadway, Salem, 898-1930; bn.com) at 10 p.m. Jan. 20. Book goes on sale in store at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 21. Call the store to sign up for the event and confirm finalized event time; time is subject to change. Due to high demand, proof of purchase of the Deluxe Limited Edition of the book is required to attend.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

- **Science Cafe: The Science Behind Genealogy** will be held Tuesday, Jan.

21, at 6 p.m. at Soel Sistas (30 Temple St., Nashua). This is a free public event featuring a panel of experts discussing the latest advancements in genealogy. Find Science Cafe New Hampshire on Facebook.

- **Beyond the Ballot Box: How to Advocate in the Granite State**, a free online workshop from the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications taught by Anna Brown and Mike Dunbar of Citizens Count, will be held Monday, Jan. 27, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Visit loebschool.org to sign up.

- **Saying What You Mean with Clarity**, a free online class from the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications taught by Laura Collins Cline, meets on

four consecutive Tuesday evenings, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11 and Feb. 18, from 7 to 8 p.m. Visit loebschool.org to sign up.

- **The First Amendment in the 21st Century**, a free online workshop from the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications taught by Gregory V. Sullivan, Esq., will be held Wednesday, Jan. 29, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Visit loebschool.org to sign up.

Poetry

- **Poetry Night**, an ongoing poetry open mic series, takes place every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Stark Brewing Co. (50 N. Commercial St., Manchester). Follow them on Facebook @slamfreeordie for updates

on upcoming events and appearances.

Writer events

- **"Getting into Print: Solving the Mysteries of Publishing,"** presented by Deidre Randall, CEO of Peter E. Randall Publisher, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

- **Write What You Know: The Personal Narrative**, a free online class from the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications taught by Sally Hirsh-Dickinson, meets on four consecutive Thursday evenings, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, Feb. 13 and Feb. 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Visit loebschool.org to sign up.

Book sales

- **Manchester City Library Winter Book Sale** Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the main branch (405 Pine St.). \$10 per average-size grocery bag filled with books. Bring your own bag or the library can provide one. Individual items can also be purchased, hardcovers \$2 each and most other materials \$1 each. Proceeds from the sale go to the library's museum pass program.
- **Derry Public Library Book Sale** on the second Sunday of each month except July and August from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (64 E. Broadway, Derry, 432-6140, derrypl.org). Paperbacks 50 cents, hardcovers \$1.

Anora (R)

An exotic dancer gets caught up in the rich-kid-nonsense of the son of a wealthy Russian family in *Anora*.

Ani (Mikey Madison), the titular Anora, dances at a strip club where one of her special talents is a working knowledge of Russian, even if her accent isn't the best. When young Russian goofus Vanya (Mark Eydelshteyn) comes in, she is sent out to dance for him. He gives her his cell number and she agrees to some hang-out time outside the club. Eventually their arrangement stretches into a week-long girlfriend experience, with Ani traveling to Las Vegas with Vanya and his entourage. Vanya doesn't want to return to Russia, where it sounds like he will have to work and won't be able to just get high and play video games all day. He suggests that he marry Ani and thus become a U.S. citizen and thus not return. Despite seeming like she's worldly enough to see the pitfalls in this, Ani says yes and they head to a Vegas wedding chapel.

Vanya is 21 and Ani is 23. You act 25, Vanya tells her. Really, she acts like a 23-year-old who sees a ray of economic light and he acts like a 14-year-old for whom there have never been any consequences for his careless actions. Madison does a good job of giving us this very young woman who's in way over her head and struggling to do the best she can with what she, at least for a little while, believes could be a real marriage and a real chance at a better future for herself. In its second half, the movie does feature segments that read more as kind of a comedy of errors with Vanya's father's American-based henchmen trying to find and hold onto Vanya while they "fix" what they see as yet another mess he has made. This part of the movie has its charms, with Yura Borisov, Karren Karagulian and Vache Tovmasyan playing workers in this family operation who have to deal with the increasingly enraged Ani and the increasingly petulant man-child Vanya. But I don't know that this "Chris and Paulie in the Pine Barrens" comedy entirely fits with what otherwise feels like a portrait of Ani. I will also say that, for me, this movie had expectations working against it — it has been nominated for, like, every movie award this season. I enjoyed it fine, it is worth a watch, but there are visible seams and rough patches (Vanya's parents, when they show up, feel very underbaked) I didn't expect based on all the accolades. **B+**, I guess, but credit the + mostly to Madison. *Available for rent or purchase.*

A Different Man (R)

Sebastian Stan plays an actor with facial differences in the at-times comic, at-times sad *A*



Anora

Different Man.

Edward (Stan) gets a role in what appears to be a human resources video about working with employees who have differences in facial structure or appearance. It's only about a minute of screentime, but it's an acting credit at least for struggling actor Edward, who has facial tumors. When he meets his new neighbor, a playwright named Ingrid (Renate Reinsve), her initial reaction is a gasp, though she later becomes friendly with him. Meanwhile, he agrees to take part in a new clinical trial, taking a drug that causes extreme pain. His skin begins to slough off his face and after a particularly dramatic skin peeling he discovers that his face is now, well, Sebastian Stan's differences-free "normal" face. Basically disowning his old self, Edward becomes Guy, a Stan-ily handsome successful real estate salesman who tells Ingrid and others that Edward is dead.

Years later, he sees a notice for an audition specifically looking for an actor with facial differences for a play called *Edward*, written by Ingrid. He auditions and gets the part, which he plans to play while wearing a mask that looks like his old face. But then Oswald (Adam Pearson) shows up. Oswald has facial differences similar to Edward's but he also has the confidence, positivity and personability — and charming English accent — that Edward never did. "Guy," the real Edward, watches as Oswald eventually plays Edward better than Edward does and then becomes the life of the afterparty as well.

Is there anything more irritating than someone who can take your particular set of lemons and make wildly popular lemonade out of them? Stan is excellent as someone who realizes the limitations of "normality" and is torn between clearly admiring Oswald and kind of hating him for how much better he is at living their life. It's a quiet, confused rage and Stan wears it very well, simmering and boiling over in a way that makes no sense to the other characters. Adam Pearson, who does have neurofibromatosis and

facial differences in real life, does a good job of differentiating Oswald from Edward. Oswald seems to move through the world matter-of-factly, presenting himself openly and then pushing people to see him fully. The movie doesn't show us the work this takes from Oswald but that kind of fits with our point of view, which is Edward's point of view, which is of this guy who lights up a room and gets the girl, something that even "Guy" can't quite pull off. **B+** *Available for rent or purchase and streaming on Max starting Jan. 17*

Flow (PG)

A cat keeps on keeping on through floods, storms and hostile lemurs in *Flow*, a beautiful, watercolor-esque, dialogue-free animated story.

Wikipedia says the animation was done with computer graphics, which you can see, particularly in the way water is rendered, with a look that is sometimes almost photorealistic. But the animals themselves often have a picture book watercolor-painted look — vibrant in their color and well defined but with a softness. We follow the adventures of a black cat, who at the beginning of the movie spends its nights sleeping in a bed in a house surrounded by outdoor cat statues. We never see the artist who left one statue half-finished on their workbench, nor any other people in this world full of human structures and human items, like bottles or a mirror, but that otherwise gives the sense of humans being long absent.

The cat is chased by a pack of dogs for a while, before a sudden rush of water floods the forest where the cat is living. The cat eventually hops on a boat that floats by and finds a capybara also living there. They continue to float, meet other animals along the way and run into the dogs from the beginning of the movie a few times — with one dog seeming to be particularly attached to the cat and the group as a whole.

The movie is ultimately more meditative than plot driven, with the soft music and lovely visuals taking you more to a place of float-along wonder. I don't know that it is action-packed enough to hold a young audience but it held me through all of its beautiful scenes of watery paradises and big eyed animals. *A Available for rent or purchase.*

Wallace and Gromit:**Vengeance Most Fowl (PG)**

The cheese-loving inventor Wallace and his much smarter dog Gromit face off against the super criminal penguin Feathers McGraw in *Wallace and Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl*.

CONTINUED ON PG 35 ▶

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By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Get laughing:** A solid lineup of standup talent is on hand at the monthly **Comedy On Purpose** showcase. Musical comedian Dave Andrews mixes self-deprecating humor with seasoned guitar skills to crowd-pleasing effect. Other comics include Ren Marquis, Jeremy Cangiano, Anthony Eugenio and host Alana Foden, who also books the show and has a fun side hustle. Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., Soho Asian Restaurant, 49 Lowell Road, Hudson, \$18 in advance (320-5393), \$20 at the door.

• **Have yachts:** Though Steely Dan is considered a significant yacht rocker band by **Boat House Row**, a subgenre tribute act making an upcoming area appearance, Donald Fagen had a curt, unprintable response to the notion when interviewed for a documentary. Whatever, it's still entertaining, and this group's sax player sparks a yearning for "Caribbean Queen" and "Baker Street." Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua, \$29 and up at etix.com.

• **Fab three:** Taking an inventive turn off the well-trod path of Beatles tributes, **While My Guitar Gently Weeps** is a trio, reimagining the harder-rocking side of the legendary band. Fans of *Abbey Road's* second side (if you know, you know) will delight in versions of "The End," along with *Yellow Submarine's* oft-neglected gem "Hey Bulldog," while marveling at their economy. Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester; whilemyguitargentlyweeps.band.

• **Well-rounded:** Few New England musicians are as beloved as **Dan Blakeslee**, who performs an afternoon set at an area barbecue joint. The seemingly always smiling singer, songwriter and guitarist honed his craft busking in MBTA stations. His charming folk songs like "Wizard Nor a King" have led to bigger stages like the Newport Folk Festival (he also drew the event's poster). Sunday, Jan. 19, 3 p.m., MrSippy BBQ, 184 S. Main St., Rochester. See danblakeslee.com.

• **Scene support:** Celebrating a year since forming, **New Hampshire Underground** hosts a grand re-opening party with live acoustic rock from Jesse Rutstein and Quincy Lord, along with art from cofounder Andre Dumont (Dead Harrison), fashion illustrator and painter Brenda Drew and artistic polymath MyArtybyKF, all in support of the Nashua underground scene. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 4 p.m., Terminus Underground, 134 Haines St., Nashua. See newhampshireunderground.org. 🍷

NITE

Honky tonk highway

Modern Fools take a country turn



Courtesy photo.

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The idea for *Clearly Country*, the new EP from Modern Fools, came from a sign spotted by songwriter Josh Blair at a yard sale in Peterborough. He couldn't shake it from his mind, so he returned to make an offer. "I didn't know why I bought it," he said by phone recently. "Then it just kind of dawned on me that it was going to be the cover of a honky-tonk album."

The result is a gem, born as much from Blair's love of purists like Hank Williams and Buck Owens as from his affinity for cosmic cowboys such as Gram Parsons and the Byrds album on which he served as a guiding light, *Sweetheart of the Radio*, an effort many point to as key in launching country rock as a genre.

Standout tracks on *Clearly Country* include "Ballroom Bender Blues," a song about a guy whose drunkenness doubles for dancing; it rollicks like The Band with a pickup pedal steel player. "On My Mind" has guest vocals from Rachel Sumner and could be a cut from John Prine's *In Spite of Ourselves*, while the high lonesome ballad "Eastern Standard" evokes the Everly Brothers, another big influence. Its supple harmonies are complemented by Braught's spare, elegant soloing.

Modern Fools with Slim Volume and Rachel Berlin

When: Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m.
Where: BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord
Tickets: \$18.75 at ccanh.com

The Keene/Peterborough band — Blair, drummer Justin Gregory, Jon Braught on guitar, keyboard player Nick Hayes and Ian Galipeau on bass — will celebrate the seven-song collection at a release show in Concord on Jan. 18. The BNH Stage date includes support from indie rockers Slim Volume and singer/songwriter Rachel Berlin.

The group began over a decade ago with a different lineup and sound.

"We played a lot of local shows and kind of fizzled out around 2016," Blair said. During the pandemic he and Gregory began working on ideas, later recruiting Braught, and Galipeau a while after that. The band released the introspective LP *Seer* in 2020 and *Strange Offering* in 2023.

Neither of those efforts bears much resemblance to *Clearly Country*.

"It's a bit of a tangent ... a departure from our normal sound," Blair said of the new EP. "This is a concept album of sorts." He'd kicked around

ideas for a twang-forward effort soon after releasing their last album, including teaming with their friend Sumner.

"I wanted that old country duet sort of thing, like Johnny Cash and June Carter sort of thing; we all unanimously thought about Rachel," Blair said. "She really

liked the song and absolutely delivered ... she sent us a quick demo back, and she just nailed it."

Blair has significant roots in the Concord music scene dating back to playing psychedelic blues at Penuche's with Ghost Dinner Band, and later in the supergroup Band Band. He immediately thought of the BNH Stage for the concert, reaching out to John McArthur at New Hampshire Music Collective, which books a lot of original bands there.

With NHMC on board, they began looking for bands to share the stage.

"Slim Volume was the first pick for everybody in the band; we just love their sound, it's very complementary," Blair said. "Then we thought of Rachel Berlin, she's from the Concord area and just a great singer/songwriter with a great voice. It's a really solid lineup and a really solid venue."

The show is a solid reflection of the Capitol City's continuous support for local artists. Even though Blair isn't a resident, he feels an affinity from his years playing in the city, with so many different musical projects.

"Concord always felt like home in the music scene," he said, "and it's always kind of felt like a home away from home for me." 🍷

“I wanted that old country duet sort of thing, like Johnny Cash and June Carter...”

JOSH BLAIR

MUSIC THIS WEEK

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

Auburn
Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Bedford
Copper Door 15 Leavy Drive, 488-2677

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

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

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

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

Feathered Friend 231 S. Main St., 715-2347

The Forum Pub 15 Village St., 565-3100

Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669

Lithermans 126B Hall St., 219-0784

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

Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667

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

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

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

LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111, 672-9898

Dover
Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240

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

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

Epsom
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027

Gilford
Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230

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

The Goat 20 L St., 601-6928

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

Smuttynose Brewing 105 Towle Farm Road

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

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

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

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

Hudson
The Bar 2B Burnham Road

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

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

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill 405 Union St.

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

Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

High Octane Saloon 1072 Watson Road, 527-8116

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

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

Stumble Inn 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

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

Bonfire 950 Elm St., 935-9947
663-7678

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

The Foundry 50 Commercial St., 836-1925

Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022

The Goat 50 Old Granite St.

Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789

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

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

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

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

Olympus Pizza 506 Valley St., 644-5559

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

Tomahawk Tavern 454 DW Highway, 365-4960

Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479

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

Stonecutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979

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

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

Fody's Tavern 9 Clin-

ton St., 577-9015

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

Mojo's West End Tavern 95 Brewery Lane, 436-6656

Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186

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

Salem
Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

Dreo 254 N. Broadway, 824-6337

Par28 23 S. Broadway, 458-7078

Sayde's Bar & Grill 136 Cluff Crossing Road, 890-1032

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

Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760-7706

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

Somersworth
Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421

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

Warner
The Local 15 E. Main St., 456-3333

Thursday, Jan. 16

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

Bedford
Copper Door: Dave Zangri, 7 p.m.

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

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

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Ezra Cohen & The Big City Band, Happy Just To See You, Little Oso, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: Chris Powers, 7 p.m.

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

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

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

Hudson
Luk's: Lee Ross, 7 p.m.

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

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.
High Octane Saloon: karaoke w/ DJ Tim, 7 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Casey Roop, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Pulse, 9 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Andre Balazs, 6 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Stephen Decuire, 5:30 p.m.
Tomahawk: Chad LaMarsh, 6 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Atura, Serious Black, Paulywog, 8 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Chris Salemm, 7 p.m.

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

Salem
Copper Door: Clint Lapointe, 7 p.m.

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

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

Tortilla Flat: Dalton Sayball, 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.
Shorty's: Jamie Hughes, 6 p.m.

Music, live and in person

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



ALL-ROUND LIGHT ROCK

If you're buoyed by the good vibes of yacht rock, you won't want to miss **Boat House Row**. This six-piece ensemble brings the music of The Doobie Brothers, Loggins and Messina and Toto to the starboard for an unforgettable evening of entertainment. They dock up at Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com) on Friday, Jan. 17, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$29 to \$59, plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK**Warner**

The Local: Tom Boisse, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17**Alton Bay**

Foster's Tavern: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.

Bedford

Murphy's: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Concord

The Forum Pub: Rev Todd Seely, 8 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: Ben Harris, 8 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Drag Night w/ Rayasunshineomg, 8 p.m.

Revo Casino: Middleman, 9 p.m.

Epping

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

Gilford

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

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Kimyo, 6 p.m.

Hampton

CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m.

The Goat: Mike Jetti, 9 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Wally's: Crooked Coast, 9 p.m.

Whym: Chris Cavanaugh, 6 p.m.

Hillsborough

Main Street Bar and Grille: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Jimmy D, 7 p.m.

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

Kingston

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

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Chris Torrey, 7 p.m.

Defiant Records: live music, 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: Justin Bethune, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Another Shot, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Ken Budka, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Samantha Rae & Jay, 9 p.m.

Derryfield: Small Town Stranded, 8 p.m.

The Foundry: Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: open mic, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: Pulse, 9 p.m.

Revo Casino: Cox karaoke, 9 p.m.

Shaskeen: Rick Berlin w/ The Nickel + Dime Band, 9 p.m.

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

Strange Brew: Peter Higgins, 8 p.m.

Meredith

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

Twin Barns: Tom Boisse, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Bella Perrotta, 6 p.m.

Milford

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

Nashua

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

Fody's: Joe Wedge, 10 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Acoustic BS, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Diggin' Into Some '90s, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Todd Hearon Trio, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Chris Belanger, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Casey Roop, 9:30 p.m.

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Press Room: Taylor Party, 10 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.

Sayde's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Taylor Hughes, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18**Alton Bay**

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

Bedford

Murphy's: Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Chris Lester, 7 p.m.

Campton

Mad River Coffee House: Willy Chase, 3 p.m.

Concord

Eagle Square Farmers Market: Will Hatch, 9 a.m.

The Forum Pub: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.; Shaun McGyver & Jackie Crow, 8 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Farmers Market: Justin Jordan, 9 a.m.

Derry

Fody's: Eddie Sands, 8 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: The Cormorants, Jon Nolan, Colin Nevins, 8 p.m.

Revo Casino: Chad Patterson, 8 p.m.; Foo!, 9 p.m.

Epping

Telly's: Jonny Friday, 8 p.m.

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Chris Powers, 6 p.m.

Hampton

The Goat: James Stark, 9 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Wally's: Bad at Math, 9 p.m.

Henniker

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

Hudson

Luk's Bar: Joanie Cicatelli, 7 p.m.

Lynn's 102: RipChord, 8:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Jodie Cunningham, 8 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Mikey G, 7 p.m.

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

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Mostly '90's, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Lexi James, 9 p.m.

Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh, 8:30 p.m.

Foundry: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 6 p.m.

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

Weekend, 9 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: Benjamin Harris, 4 p.m.

The Hill: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

Keys: dueling pianos, 8 p.m.

Shaskeen: While My Guitar Gently Weeps, 9 p.m.

Strange Brew: Hickory Horned Devils, 8 p.m.

Meredith

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

Twin Barns: Temple Mountain, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Justin Bethune, 6 p.m.

Nashua

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

New Boston

Molly's: Two Drink Minimum, 7 p.m.

Newbury

Mount Sunapee: Ryan Williamson, 3 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: High Range, 4:30 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Funk Night with Gary and Friends, 6 p.m.

Pittsfield

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

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Jamie Hughes, 9:30 p.m.

The Goat: Mike Jetti, 9 p.m.

Press Room: Wolfman Jack, 6 p.m.; Jamin Jay Sync, 10 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.

Par28: DJ Styles, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: 8 Track Flash Back, 8 p.m.

Sunapee

The Livery: Jack & Tim, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 19**Bedford**

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Jack Ancora, 1 p.m.

Derry

LaBelle: Mr. Aaron Band, 3 p.m.; Bennie & The Jets, 7:15 p.m.

Goffstown

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

Hampton

CR's: John Chouinard, 6 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Lynn's 102: No Decision, 4 p.m.

Laconia

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

Manchester

The Goat: Mike Jetti, 10 a.m.

Shaskeen: rap night, 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: Rebecca Turmel Duo, 2 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Black Pudding Rovers, 2 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: open mic, 4 p.m.

Portsmouth

The Goat: James Stark, 9 p.m.

Press Room: Blues Brunch w/ Bees Deluxe, 12 p.m.; Blues Supper w/ Bees Deluxe, 6 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 20**Dover**

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

Gilford

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

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson

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

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Monday Muse with Lisa Guyer, 7 p.m.

Manchester

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

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

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

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Lou Porrazzo, 5:30 p.m.

Merrimack

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

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: music bingo, 9 p.m.; Mike Jetti, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 21**Concord**

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.

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

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

**THE GRASS IS BLUE**

If you're looking for a traditional string band, give **The New England Bluegrass Band** a listen. Their powerful renditions of bluegrass standards and lively concert performances has made them a regional institution. They stop by the Flying Goose (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Manchester
Fratello's: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Keys Piano Bar: karaoke w/ Tori Glam & Euriah , 9 p.m.

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Liz Ridgely, 5:30 p.m.

Nashua
Fody's: music bingo w/ DJ Jay, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.

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

Salem
Sayde's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.
Red's: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 22
Concord
Barley House: Holy Cow Bingo, 6 p.m.
The Forum: karaoke w/ Anastasia, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: live music, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

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

Dover
Auspicious Brew: open mic, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: music bingo, 7 p.m.

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

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7

p.m.
Keys Piano Bar: music bingo, 7 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Paul Hubert, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Mr. Paul Nelson, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
The Goat: Chris Powers, 9 p.m.
Press Room: New Norde & The Scraps, 7 p.m.

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

Trivia
Trivia events

- **Schitt's Creek** trivia Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com).
- **2010s decade of music** trivia Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com).
- **General Knowledge** trivia Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com).

Other games

- **21+ Scratch Ticket Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 and include a \$5 food voucher for that evening.
- **21+ Live Feud Gone Wild** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Jan. 24, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.
- **21+ Scratch Ticket Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 and include a \$5 food voucher for that evening.
- **Family Friendly Theater Candy Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Jan. 31, at 6:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include a \$5 food voucher.

at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 and include a \$5 food voucher for that evening.

- **21+ Scratch Ticket Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 and include a \$5 food voucher for that evening.
- **21+ Scratch Ticket Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 and include a \$5 food voucher for that evening.
- **21+ Live Feud Gone Wild** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Feb. 21, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20.
- **Family Friendly Theater Candy Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 6:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include a \$5 food voucher.
- **Family Friendly Theater Candy Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Feb. 28, at 6:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include a \$5 food voucher.

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 Shooters Sports Pub (6 Columbus Ave., Exeter, 772-3856) at 7:15 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-2809, Have zip code!

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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 29
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 Sea Dog Brewing (5 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Shoppers Pub + Eatery (18 Lake Ave., Manchester, shoppersmht.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at the Forum Pub (15 Village St., Concord, 552-0137), at 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535,

- thepeppersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Bert's Beers (545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992, bertsnh.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Lithermans (126 Hall St., Concord, lithermans.beer) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Otto (33 Water St., Exeter, 810-6886) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass

- Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Talespinner Brewery (57 Factory St., Nashua, ramblingtale.com, 318-3220) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcoming-events) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Backyard Brewery (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, backyardbrewerynh.com) 7 p.m.

- **Wednesday** trivia at Don Ramon (6 Whitney St., Merrimack, 420-8468) from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, 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.
- **Second Wednesday of every month** trivia at Park Theatre (19 Main St., Jaffrey; 532-9300, theparktheatre.org) at 7:30 p.m.

Concerts

Venues

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

Capitol Center for the Arts
Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

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

Dana Center Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets.anselm.edu

The Flying Goose 40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com

The Flying Monkey 39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flying-monkeynh.com

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

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

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

elmusicvenue.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Music Hall Lounge
131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org

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

Palace Theatre 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacet-

heatre.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shows

• **Atura/Serious Black/Pollywog** Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m., Stone Church

• **New England Bluegrass Band** Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose

• **Shemekia Copeland** Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **603 Singer/Songwriters** Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Eliza Neals Band** Friday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Elias Kacavas & the Vanity** Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Rex

• **Blues Brothers: The Next Generation** Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Boat House Row** (yacht rock tribute) Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Modern Fools** Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., BNH Stage

• **TUSK** (Fleetwood Mac tribute) Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Music Hall

• **Seba Molnar** Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **Great Falls Band** (Weezer tribute) Friday, Jan. 17, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **High Range** Saturday, Jan. 18, 4 p.m., Stone Church

• **Erica Brown & the Bluegrass Connection** Saturday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **Wolfman Jack** (Grateful Dead tribute) Saturday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Press Room

• **Cathedral** (Van Halen tribute) Saturday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Keller Williams** Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace

• **Branford Marsalis** Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Life's A Drag** Saturday, Jan.



Shemekia Copeland

18, 9 p.m., Chunky's

• **Mr. Aaron Band** Sunday, Jan. 19, 3 p.m., LaBelle Derry

• **Bennie & the Jets** Sunday, Jan. 19, 7:15 p.m., LaBelle Derry

• **The Rumble** Sunday, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Silver Heels** Monday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Rakish/Nate Sabat** Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **Tapestry** (Carole King tribute) Thursday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Steve Forbert** Thursday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Eldorado Slim** Thursday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Grateful for Biggie** (Grateful Dead/Biggie Smalls tribute) Thursday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **Diaspora Radio: The Joshua Tree** Thursday, Jan. 23, 9 p.m., Press Room

• **Gunning & Cormier** Thursday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **Slack Tide/Supernothing** Thursday, Jan. 24, 6 p.m., Press Room

• **Now and Forever: A Celebration of Carole King** Thursday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Johnny Hoy & the Bluefish feat. Delanie Pickering** Thursday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage

• **Dirty Deeds** (AC/DC tribute) Thursday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Zeppelin Reimagined** Thursday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Esperanza Spalding** Thursday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **YAMATO: The Drummers of Japan** Saturday, Jan. 25, 4 p.m., Cap Center

• **Kenny Brothers Band** Saturday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m., Press Room

• **The Fab Four: USA Meets the Beatles!** Saturday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Dueling Pianos** Saturday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre

• **Beatejuice** Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Chuck Prophet & His Cum-bia Shoes** Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace

• **Reed Foehl** Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **Reprise: A Phish Experience** Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **Will Evans** Sunday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **Lee DeWye** Sunday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **The Blue Ribbons** Monday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Savor the Silence/Them Dewlap Boys/The Pomeroy's** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., Press Room

• **Oma Sosa & Seckou Keita Souba Trio** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Genticorum** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **New England Winter Blues Summit** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Rex

• **The Press Room Presents The Press Room** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Press Room

• **Dinty Child/Mark Erelli** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose

• **Adam Pascal & Anthony Rapp** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall

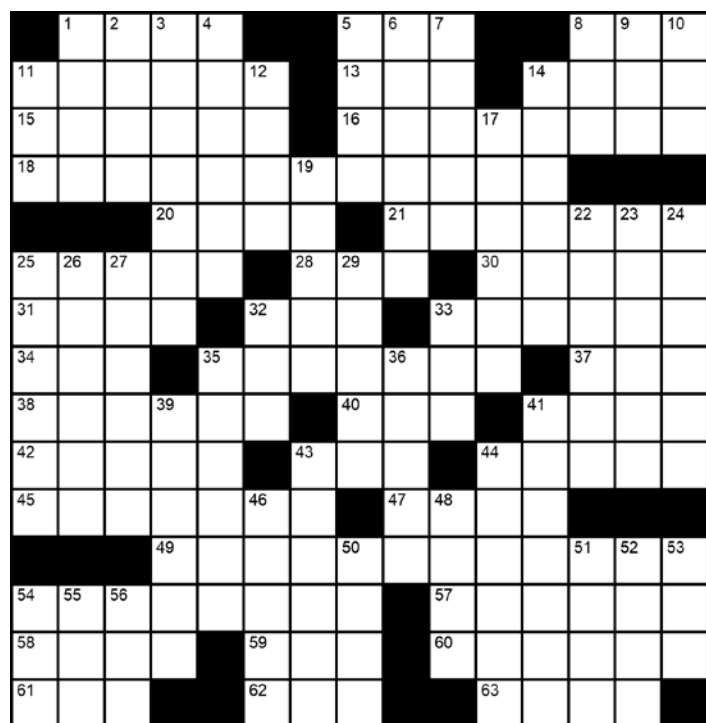
• **Matt Pond PA** Thursday, Jan.

NEW YEAR, NEW MUSIC

Is your new year's resolution to hear more local music? Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) hosts an evening of up-and-coming singer/songwriters, including **Miketon Graton**, **Ryan Jackson** and **Tristan Omand**. The music starts at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 18, and tickets cost \$19 plus fees.



"The Best of 2024"—let's look back, one more time.



Across

- 1. It comes to mind
- 5. Presidential nickname
- 8. About to run out
- 11. Sonnet division
- 13. Reaction to some memes
- 14. Additional
- 15. Rodeos and Axioms, e.g.
- 16. Miranda July novel that made The New Yorker's "The Essential Reads 2024" list
- 18. Netflix "true story" miniseries that was #2 on The Guardian's "50 Best TV Shows of 2024"
- 20. Quaff made with honey
- 21. Build up
- 25. Jason who's one half of Jay & Silent Bob
- 28. Screw up
- 30. Andean wool source
- 31. Wood-chopping tools
- 32. Iconic toy store ___ Schwarz
- 33. Onetime office note-takers
- 34. Dinghy propeller
- 35. Poker-themed roguelike deck-builder nominated for The Game Awards' 2024 Game of the Year
- 37. "___ Been Everywhere"
- 38. Marvel mutant with cold powers
- 40. "___ Meninas" (Velazquez painting)
- 41. "Slumdog Millionaire" actor Kapoor
- 42. Reserved
- 43. Attached document, sometimes
- 44. Super Bowl XLIV MVP Drew
- 45. Tailless breed

- 47. Growing business?
- 49. Country crossover album that made many "Best of 2024" lists
- 54. Character paired with Wolverine in a 2024 title, the highest-grossing R-rated film ever
- 57. ___ del Fuego
- 58. Where eye color comes from
- 59. Penn who's not opposite Teller

- 60. Pants length measurement
- 61. ___ see ew
- 62. Greek letter found within other Greek letters
- 63. "Don't change that," to an editor

Down

- 1. "___ little too late for that"
- 2. Paint badly
- 3. Organic catalysts
- 4. Sky blue shades
- 5. Permanent "QI" panelist Davies
- 6. Not as shy
- 7. "Grey's Anatomy" star Pompeo
- 8. "Skip To My ___"
- 9. Hockey star Bobby
- 10. "Isle of Dogs" director Anderson
- 11. Member of the fam
- 12. Out sailing
- 14. Personnel concern
- 17. Was defeated by
- 19. Best possible
- 22. Froglike, to biologists
- 23. Film appropriate for all ages
- 24. Art studio props
- 25. "Little Red Book" ideology
- 26. Bet at Churchill Downs
- 27. "___ American Band" (1973 Grand Funk Railroad album)
- 29. Author Dahl
- 32. Season ticket holder
- 33. School elders, for short
- 35. Half a stereotypical interrogation team
- 36. Confection that gets pulled
- 39. Shared albums around the 2000s?

- 41. Seat adjunct
- 43. JFK's craft in WWII
- 44. Zombie chant
- 46. Got up
- 48. Play's opener
- 50. Mexican earthenware vessel
- 51. Elm, palm, or maple
- 52. Part of QED
- 53. L.A. football player
- 54. Part of a party spread
- 55. Period of history
- 56. Financial help

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THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

6X	4	2-	
	2÷		7+
3-		2÷	
2-			2

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CHALLENGING

2-		5+	8+		5+
60X			5-		
	3+	120X		108X	3
4-			2÷		
	12+			3-	
			60X		

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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

7+	4	3	2	1
6+	2	4	1	3
	1	2	3	4
	3	1	4	2

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

Find and Circle...

- Five four-letter fruits □□□□
- Three poker hands □□□
- Three five-letter dances □□□□□
- Three months □□□
- Two Australian states □□

Last Week's Answers: SCIENCE HISTORY MATH / DOLLAR POUND PESO / OSCAR EMMY TONY / ELEPHANT ANTELOPE CARIBOU / FROG TOAD

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12/6

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

One hint honey, you sure did put on a show

Across

- 1. What manager did, for killer label deal
- 6. Hillsong United 'Shout ___ God'
- 10. Billy Joel "___ always a woman to me"
- 14. 2 Live Crew hit 'Me So ___'
- 15. Billy Joel "Rich man, ___ man, either way American"
- 16. Arizona band A Change Of ___
- 17. Maroon 5 'Songs About Jane' hit
- 20. Houston '4 Of A Kind' thrash band
- 21. UB40's countdown: 'Two In ___'
- 22. Sammy Hagar guitarist of HSAS/Journey guy Neil
- 23. Venom '___ Before The Storm'
- 25. 'Slave To The ___' Placebo
- 27. Lead vocalist of Staind
- 31. Deana Carter '___ Shave My Legs For This?'
- 35. Nitty ___ Dirt Band
- 36. "She's got a way about her, don't know what ___"
- 38. Germs/Nirvana/Foo guitarist Smear
- 39. Billy Joel '___ Extremes'
- 40. 'Argus' rockers Wishbone ___
- 41. We Are Scientists play music 'After ___'
- 43. 'Aunt Betty' Middle Class ___
- 44. Pink Floyd 'The ___ Song' off

More

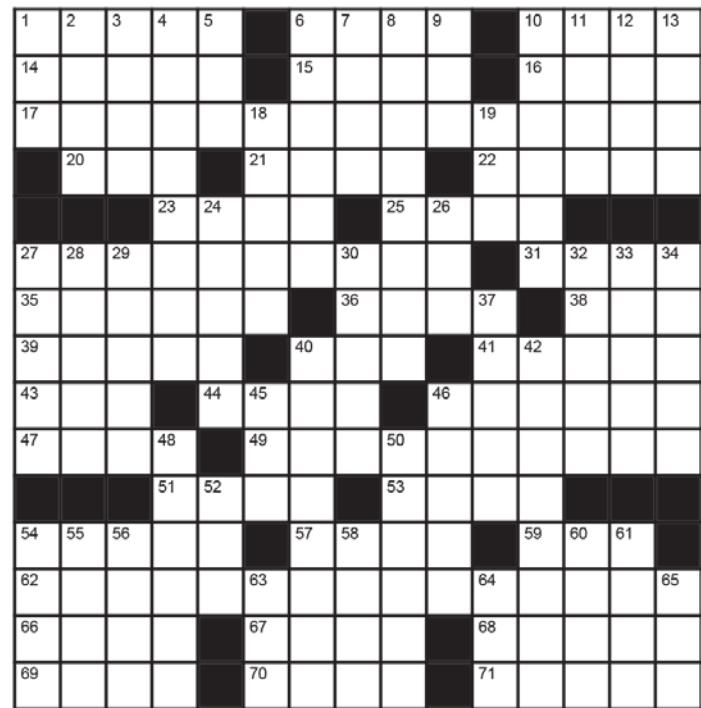
- 46. Phil Collins 'Separate Lives' co-singer Marilyn
- 47. Alt-band that likes to subtract?
- 49. Violent Femmes lead singer
- 51. 'Freedom' singer/rapper
- 53. LCD Soundsystem may think up with a 'Big' one
- 54. '99 Ben Harper album 'Burn To ___'
- 57. Diana Ross 'What You ___ Me'
- 59. 'Straight Outta Compton' rappers
- 62. 'Car Wheels On A Gravel Road' girl
- 66. Spacehog 'At Least ___ Laid'
- 67. '00 Vertical Horizon hit 'You're ___'
- 68. Composers org.
- 69. "I can't ___ it, w/that smile on her face" Deep Purple
- 70. Mountain Goats song for double agent
- 71. Kind of 'Road' Chris Rea drives down

You "go out on" this for tour

- 3. '12 Rolling Stones greatest hits album
- 4. The Bravery lead singer Sam
- 5. Hippie concert shirt: tie-___
- 6. Jethro Tull side 1 closer on 'Aqualung'
- 7. The Carpenters 'Crescent ___'
- 8. Mr. Big "I'm the one who wants ___ you"
- 9. Cars 'Moving In Stereo' singer Benjamin
- 10. Like "too far gone" concertgoer (w/"out")
- 11. Rick Wakeman 'Ann Boleyn: The Day Thou Gavest Lord ___ Ended'
- 12. 80s 'Funky Town' band Pseudo ___
- 13. Sponge 'Have You ___ Mary'
- 18. Rage Against The Machine "They ___ round the family, with a pocket full of shells!"
- 19. Funky dance band from the Bronx
- 24. Letterman band drummer Figg
- 26. Chicago "Take me ___ am, put

your hand in mine"

- 27. Madonna 'What It Feels Like For ___'
- 28. Object, over band direction
- 29. They happen when AxI Rose doesn't show
- 30. Buffalo Tom song about being smarter?
- 32. CCR '___ Spell On You'
- 33. 'Mack The Knife' Bobby
- 34. Depeche Mode '___ Good'
- 37. Bob of The Kingston Trio
- 40. Paul McCartney 'Once Upon ___'
- 42. Church musician
- 45. Billy Joel '___ To Extremes'
- 46. What some heartthrob rockers do for fashion ads
- 48. Three year tour may make you lose your marbles or this
- 50. Perfect Circle brother band Ashes ___
- 52. Vietnamese double reed instrument
- 54. What song sharply did after peaking
- 55. Like enormous exposure
- 56. Legendary star
- 58. No-show
- 60. David Koresh-inspired Charlie Daniels song?
- 61. Def Leppard 'Make Love Like ___'
- 63. What 'Would Break' and rush water, to Toad The Wet Sprocket
- 64. Sixpence None The Richer covered them w/'There She Goes'
- 65. Shakira song to snoop to?



Down

- 1. Boyz II Men grunt song '___ Ahh'

R&R answer from pg 32 of 1/9



Jonesin' answer from pg 31 of 1/9



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 33.

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A



Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku

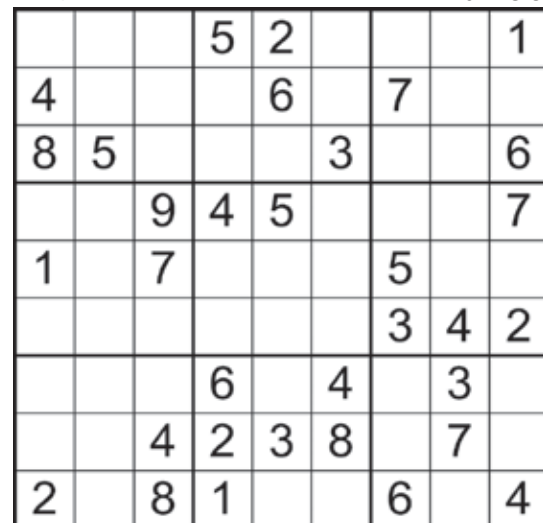
Puzzle B



Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle C



Difficulty: ★★★

SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Blues & Chaos: The Music Writing of Robert Palmer*, born Jan. 19, 1949.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) After several unsuccessful records, the [Isley] brothers made ‘Shout’ for RCA. ... such music had never been heard on pop radio. Never!

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) [Led] Zepelin’s relationship to the blues was complex. Most relationships are.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) Some of the lyrics to ‘Satisfaction’ and other [Rolling] Stones singles were deliberately obscured.... This was the origin of the so-called Stones mix — a vocalist fighting to be heard over a wall of careening guitars and a big bass and drum sound.

All you need is ‘I can’t get no.’

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) Recording studios have changed a great deal since the Beatles recorded Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band on a four-track machine — for that matter, they’ve changed since 1975. For that matter...

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) Blues guitarists speak a language all their own. And you can’t learn it on DuoLingo.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) The finest rock improvisers understand that a solo can ‘tell a story.’ But in rock, the story tends to be a kind of rough outline, expressed through the overall shape and direction of the solo. There is little sense of the sort of painstakingly detailed, note-by-note storytelling one hears in the blues. Tell your story your way.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) Is Elvis Costello, the original angry young man of rock’s new wave, going to turn out to be the Cole Porter of the 1980s? Good question; now who’s the Madonna of the 2020s?

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

Most of the songs on [Elvis] Costello’s earlier albums were in a melodic pop-rock vein. ... But as early as his second album ... Mr. Costello and his superb backing trio, the Attractions, began to expand their range. You can always branch out.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) Let’s begin with disco, the popular music one is most likely to hear whenever people get together to dance. You should be dancing, yeah, you should be dancing, yeah!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) ... you would expect Patti Smith to have grown as an artist, and she has. Nice and neat.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) [Otis] Rush ... rarely rehearses before an engagement, being content to teach new musicians the fine points of his tunes in actual performances. Sometimes the practice is the performance.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) Led Zepelin made its impact primarily with its hard rock, some of the hardest around. ... At the same time ... the band’s range and ambition were already in evidence. Your lane doesn’t have to be narrow. 🍷

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 like a high-pitched noise (6)	_____
2 it’s played on a pitch (6)	_____
3 it’s pitched in a campground (4)	_____
4 one with a slick pitch (11)	_____
5 hardened conifer pitch (5)	_____
6 it may be 12:12 pitch (7)	_____
7 it’s pitched on a diamond (8)	_____

RI	CC	SIN	SO	ROO
ER	SON	PER	NT	SEB
SH	TE	RE	OP	ES
LL	BA	ALL	SAL	FT

Last Week’s Answers: 1. PARTNERSHIP 2. PETAFLOP 3. PARSNIP 4. PERMATEMP 5. PICKUP 6. PAWNSHOP 7. PREAMP

Sudoku Answers from pg 32 of 1/9

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 12/23

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★ 12/24

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 12/26



Discover Premier Shows
AT NEW HAMPSHIRE’S AWARD-WINNING VENUE!

JAN 24



ZEPPELIN REIMAGINED

JAN 25



BEATLEJUICE
A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

JAN 30



ACE FREHLEY
PERFORMING ALL THE KISS HITS

JAN 31



CAPTAIN FANTASTIC
A TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN

FEB 1



BOOGIE WONDER BAND
THE MOST CELEBRATED DISCO BAND



GET YOUR TICKETS AND VIEW OUR FULL SCHEDULE AT:

WWW.TUPELOMUSICHALL.COM

It's a Mystery

In Beeston, Nottinghamshire, England, locals are perplexed about a monthly offering at the corner of Abbey Road and Wensor Avenue, United Press International reported on Jan. 6. Starting over a year ago, on the second day of each month, a plate heaped high with peeled bananas has appeared at the intersection. Resident Clare Short said she put up a sign reading, "Please, respectfully, no more bananas! The uncollected plates and rotting bananas leave such a mess." But on Jan. 2, a new plate appeared. "I think it's a special thing for someone, and I wish them well," Short said, adding that she has taken down her sign. "But if they could come back and clean up the mess a few days later that would be lovely." *UPI, Jan. 6*

Heroes

On Jan. 5 in rural Norton, Kansas, temps following the big snowstorm weren't even reaching 20 degrees, and the wind chill was 5 below zero, KAKE-TV reported. That didn't stop two linemen who were trying to restore power to area residents from going above (literally) and beyond: On top of a utility pole, a bobcat and her kitten were frozen to the line and the pole. Dominic Urban and Eric Hartwell worked for about two hours to free the frigid felines. "I couldn't

knock them off," Urban said. "(The mother) was frozen down to the top of the pole ... I beat the ice loose then lowered her to the ground. I had to do the same with the kitten." He said the mom and kitten ran off immediately after reaching the ground. *KAKE, Jan. 6*

News You Can Use?

If you own a Toto Washlet bidet toilet, listen up: Don't wipe the seat with toilet tissue. United Press International reported on Jan. 3 that owners have been complaining about the seats getting scratch marks and becoming discolored. A Toto spokesperson said the tissue can cause tiny scratches that expand and trap dirt. Instead, customers are urged to use a soft cloth and diluted detergent. The company also said there are "no plans to change the material at this time." *UPI, Jan. 3*

The Tech Revolution

• The Summit County (Colorado) Sheriff's Department responded to a call on Jan. 7 on the slopes of Keystone Resort: not an injured skier, but a wayward car that had taken a wrong turn and ended up on the Schoolmarm ski run. United Press International reported that the abandoned car had a note on the windshield, explaining that the driver had been following GPS and ended

up stuck in the snow. A tow truck removed the car, which was returned to the owner. *UPI, Jan. 8*

• A small Welsh village has been inundated by shoppers looking for an Aldi supermarket that doesn't exist, *Oddity Central* reported on Jan. 6. A pin on Google Maps, probably dropped as a prank, directs shoppers and delivery drivers to a grassy field in Cyffylliog, leaving locals unamused. One large milk tank truck became stuck on a narrow village street while trying to locate the store, and "a bloke with a pallet of bread ... thought he'd been hired to stock shelves," one resident said. Finally, Aldi got involved and said it would work with Google Maps to get the pin removed. *Oddity Central, Jan. 6*

Ewww!

On Jan. 3, the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers defeated the Virginia Tech Hokies at the Duke's Mayo Bowl in Charlotte, North Carolina, *The New York Times* reported. The real highlight of the game, though, is the tradition of dumping 5 gallons of mayonnaise (Duke's, of course) on the winning coach's head. Other condiment-related attractions include mayo bobbing (trying to catch mayo packets swimming in mayo) and mayo giveaways with team logos. And for 2025, Flavor Flav

was revealed as the Duke's Mayo celebrity mascot. Last year, Duke's had a record day of online sales during the contest. They may-o be doing something right! *New York Times, Jan. 3*

It's Come to This

The Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain in Belgium was forced to issue a warning to the country on Jan. 7 against eating Christmas trees, United Press International reported. The statement was in response to the city of Ghent recommending cooking with conifer needles. "You can make delicious spruce needle butter with them for bread or toast," Ghent's website read. But the FASFC wasn't having it: Christmas trees "are not meant to end up in the food chain" because many have been treated with pesticides and other chemicals, including flame retardant. Ghent responded by changing its headline to read "Scandinavians eat their Christmas trees" and added a warning: "not all Christmas trees are edible." Way to throw the Vikings under the bus, Belgians! *UPI, Jan. 9*

Sources according to uexpress.com. From the editors at AndrewsMcMeelSyndication.com. See uexpress.com/contact 📧

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 25

Since Wallace and Gromit helped put away Feathers for stealing the blue diamond, the wordless, devious penguin has been locked in "prison" (a penguin exhibit at the zoo). Meanwhile, Wallace (voice of Ben Whitehead) has continued to invent — mostly semi-terrible gadgets like the automatic jam-on-toast applicator and robotic dog-patter. But then, to "help" Gromit, he invents Norbot (voice of Reece Shearsmith), a garden gnome robot who is extremely overzealous about tidying up — he mows down Gromit's newly planted tree and flowers and trims the hedges into squares. Gromit is annoyed but the neighbors are delighted and ask Wallace to hire Norbot out, which he does. The local news team shows up to do a story on this invention, which Feathers happens to see on TV.

Feathers hacks in to Norbot's operating system, turning his core setting from "good" to "evil." Norbot then creates his own army of gnome robots to enact Feathers' dastardly plan.

The animation here is fun, the usual Aardman look of clay creations in a world full of tactile items like a book with paper pages — such as Gromit's copy of *A Room Of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf. Authority figures — Wallace, police chief Mackintosh (voice of Peter Kay) — are pleasantly clueless while brainier figures like Gromit and the young police officer P.C. Mukherjee (voice of Lauren Patel) know there's trouble afoot. In Aardman style, there are "wrong'uns" and meanness without cruelty, making it very friendly for a wide range of ages, including older kids who can enjoy the overall goofiness. *A Streaming on Netflix.* 📺

Film

• *Nosferatu* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 4 & 7 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 17, through Monday, Jan. 20, at 1, 4 & 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 21, and Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 4 & 7 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 23, at 3:30 p.m.

• *Babygirl* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 4:15 & 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 17, through Monday, Jan. 20, at 2, 4:15 & 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 21, and Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 4:15 & 6:30 p.m.

• *A Complete Unknown* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 17, through Monday, Jan. 20, at 12:45, 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 21, and Wednesday, Jan. 22, 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 23, at 3 p.m.

• *The Goonies* (1985, "PG") will screen in celebration of its 40th anniversary via Fathom on Sunday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. at Apple Cinemas in Merrimack and Hooksett, O'neil Brickyard Square in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington (also at 4 p.m.) as well as at 4 and 6:40 p.m. at Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem. The film will also screen Monday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at Apple Cinemas in Merrimack and Hooksett, Cine-

mark Rockingham Park in Salem, O'neil Cinemas Brickyard Square in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington.

• *Turbo* (PG, 2013) will screen as part of the Little Lunch Date series on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 11:30 a.m. at Chunky's in Manchester.

• *Marked Men: Rule & Shaw* will screen via Fathom on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and Wednesday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem, O'neil Cinemas Brickyard Square in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington.

• *The Brutalist* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord, redrivertheaters.org, on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6 p.m.

• *Happy Feet* (PG, 2006) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 10 a.m.

• *Aida*, a broadcast of The MET: Live in HD, will screen at BNH Stage in Concord, cconh.com, on Saturday, Jan. 25, at 12:30 p.m. It will also screen live via Fathom at Apple Cinemas Merrimack and Hooksett, O'neil Cinemas Brickyard Square in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington. Encore presentations will screen via Fathom on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Apple Cinemas at Hooksett and Merrimack; at 1 p.m. at O'neil Cinemas Brickyard Square in Epping and at Regal Fox Run in Newington (where an addition-

al encore will screen on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m.).

• *Way Down East* (1920), a D.W. Griffith silent film starring Lillian Gish and presented with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen Sunday, Jan. 26, at 2 p.m. at Wilton Town Hall Theatre in Wilton.

• *Between Borders* (2025) will screen via Fathom on Sunday, Jan. 26, through Tuesday, Jan. 28, O'neil Cinemas at Brickyard Square in Epping (7 p.m.) and Regal Fox Run in Newington (4 and 7 p.m.).

• *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (PG, 2009) will screen as part of a five-course dinner and a movie presentation with food from Chef Keith Sarasin on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com). Tickets cost \$75 for dinner (vegetarian option) and \$110 with a VIP wine package.

• *Wild Orchids* (1928), a silent film starring Greta Garbo presented with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, will screen on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. at the Rex Theatre.

• *Green and Gold* (2025) will screen via Fathom Friday, Jan. 31, through Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4 and 7 p.m. at Regal Fox Run in Newington.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

• **Young & Strange: Delusionists** Park Theatre, Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org Saturday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.

• **Steve Bjork** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Jan. 18, 8 p.m.

• **Annie Powell** Headliners, Manchester, headlinersnh.com, Saturday, Jan. 18, 8:30 p.m.

• **Sarah Silverman** Chubb Theatre, Concord, cconh.com,

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m.

• **Ben Seidman** Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org, Friday, Jan. 24 through Sunday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.

• **Annie Powell/Rob Steen** Liquid Therapy, Nashua, headlinersnh.com, Friday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

• **Jimmy Dunn** Amato Center, Milford, jimmydunn.com, Saturday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.

• **Steve Scarfo** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.

• **David Rattigan** McCue's, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com, Saturday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.

• **Tim McKeever/Annie Powell** Muse Bistro, Salem, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 8 p.m.

• **Ismo** Music Hall Lounge, themusicallounge.org, Portsmouth, Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.

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