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JAN 30 - FEB 5, 2025

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ON THE COVER

10 It's cold, sure, but you can still hit the trail. Zachary Lewis talks to experts about hiking in winter, the gear you may need and the birds you could spot along the way. Photo above by Matt Larson.

ALSO ON THE COVER Tacos, coffee, ice cream, doughnuts — vote for the best of all the best stuff in our Best of 2025 Hippo readers' poll. Vote now at hippopress.com.

And check out this week's food section, which is full of tasty stuff. John Fladd finds out about Sunstone Brewery Co. and its Viking vibes, Soel Sistas' customers paying it forward and how to make a tres leches cake from the owner of Bitter-sweet Bake Shoppe. It all starts on page 20.

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NEWS & NOTES

JetBlue to FL

On Jan. 23, JetBlue launched service from Manchester-Boston Regional Airport with flights to Orlando International Airport as well as seasonal flights to other Florida airports. The Orlando flights will be year-round and daily, according to a press release on the airport's website. Flights to Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers (three times weekly) and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (four times weekly) will be seasonal, the release said.

Math & science teachers

Five New Hampshire teachers received the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, according to a Jan. 22 press release from the New Hampshire Department of Education. The awards were announced the previous week by former President Joe Biden and honor teachers from the 2021, 2022 and 2023 award application cycles,

the release said. The teachers are John Tietjen from Lebanon High School (for 2021); John Blackwell from Phillips Exeter Academy (for 2021); Susan Leifer from Mast Way School in Lee (2022); Joanne Goelzer from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy (2023) and Sandra Swiechowicz from Raymond High School (2023). For more information on the awards, see paemst.org.

Lotto scam

The office of New Hampshire Attorney General John M. Formella issued a Consumer Alert for New Hampshire residents regarding a rise in reports of scammers perpetrating lottery and sweepstakes scams, according to a press release. "In these scams, a scammer contacts the victim and falsely claims that the victim has won a lottery or sweepstakes, such as the Publishers Clearing House (PCH) sweepstakes. The scammer tells the victim that before the prize money can be issued, the victim must pay certain fees upfront, such as taxes, legal fees, or processing fees. In

many cases, the scammer instructs the victim to pay these fees by wire transfer, Bitcoin ATM, or prepaid gift or debit cards. In two recent reports, the scammers demanded fees in increments of \$8,500," the release said. The release said the Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes never calls in advance to tell you that you've won and if you receive a call claiming to be from the sweepstakes, hang up and call Publishers Clearing House at 800-392-4190. Also, generally, "You will never have to pay a fee to claim a prize from any legitimate sweepstakes or lottery," the release said. Report the scam to your local police department, the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau of the Attorney General's Office at 271-3641, and the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Adult and Aging Services at 1-800-949-0470 or to doj.nh.gov/consumer/complaints/index.htm, the release said. 🌊

CONCORD

The Center for the Arts in **New London** will host master fly fisher Scott Biron on Monday, Feb. 17, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the art of fly tying, according to a press release. See centerfortheartsnh.org.

MANCHESTER

Sunday, Feb. 2, is the final day to view the exhibit "Dan Dailey: Impressions of the Human Spirit," featuring the works of the "New Hampshire artist whose creative ideas and innovations in glass have expanded the canon of art," at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., **Manchester**; currier.org). The show will feature more than 75 of Dailey's pieces, according to a Currier press release. The Currier is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NASHUA

Recycled Percussion will perform four shows this weekend at the **Nashua** Center for the Arts — Saturday, Feb. 1, at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 2, at 1 and 5 p.m. See nashua-centerforthearts.com.

The Last Ice, a short documentary by New Hampshire science teacher Greg Stott and Vermont filmmaker Nick Natale, will screen Friday, Feb. 7, at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in **Concord** (starhop.com) as part of this month's Super Stellar Friday programming, which begins at 6:30 p.m. Stott, the 2023 NH Charitable Foundation recipient of the Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical award, used his sabbatical to make a film about the last ice age and its effect on the Connecticut River Valley, according to the website. Admission costs \$13 for adults, \$12 for 62+ and ages 13 through college, and \$10 for ages 3 to 12.



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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

The cool-stuff market

Queen City Black Market offers art, oddities, hot dogs

Queen City Black Market is an event focused on the alternative, antique and oddity culture in New Hampshire. The market is being put on by Janelle Havens, who runs and operates Lustshroom, Etc. with a focus on “unique footwear for unique people,” according to its website. Havens spoke to the Hippo about the event. Visit lustshroometc.square.site for more information on the event and business.

Q: *What is the Queen City Black Market?*

The idea is that we get a bunch of weird vendors, right, taxidermy or like weird art, prints and designs. They're from all over New England, but we get them all together under one roof in Manchester and we have a night where it's free to enter. People can come in, obviously meet some cool people, buy some cool stuff, and then be on their merry way. We'll have an after party afterward at the Shaskeen, which is more of that typical, informal, everyone gets together at a bar.



Janelle Havens. Courtesy photo.

tattoo convention for his work and I was just sitting around looking and I was like, ‘You know, everyone here either wears platform shoes or would buy a pair, right, and I had my own experience with buying them, you can really only buy them online. There's no store that sells them other than like in Salem, Massachusetts, which can be a hike and can be prohibitively expensive for people. Well, why not

have a pop-up business where you can go to these places where this clientele would be, they get to go, they get to try it on in person, they can see if they like it, they know who's selling it to them ...

How did this all get started?

It's the first year. Hopefully, if all goes according to plan, it will be an annual thing. I had started my own business a little over a year ago at this point so I was traveling all over New England doing markets and shows and conventions. I was doing a lot of tattoo conventions and then I ended up going to the Worcester Punk Rock Flea Market in Massachusetts and I was so inspired ... I was like, ‘Wow, I wish I had something like that in my backyard, this stuff doesn't happen in New Hampshire,’ and I feel like a lot of people that I meet say the same thing, but it can be in New Hampshire, we just have to do it.

What is your business Lustshrooms, Etc. and what do you do?

My business is selling platform shoes, so the typical big goth boots type of deal. I also sell oddities. I'll take animal teeth, mount them, frame them, for a nice wall decoration. Also just like weird stuff that I might come across. So like a Last Rites kit I've come across a couple of times, so I'll sell that but basically weird stuff and then also platform shoes. My partner tattoos and so we were at a

Is weird just something that's not normal or how would you characterize that?

I would say it's just really not mainstream. It's not your typical stuff that you might find at Marshall's. ... The first reaction is, ‘Oh, that's really weird,’ but then it's ‘Oh, but that's cool, though.’ It's so weird, it's cool. ... [T]he idea that this is somewhere that my dad would probably be at, and he's a 50-year-old dude that listens to Guns N' Roses. He doesn't necessarily fit that stereotypical goth or punk or whatever, but he would still go and have a good time. I will have a good time as someone that might be more stereotypical punk, right? It is also all ages, so, you know, if a 12-year-old kid is kind of in their angsty phase, that's a great spot for them. ... it's just really anyone that would find it cool.

What are some of the logistics of the event and after party?

It's Saturday, Feb. 1, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., all ages, free at the door. There will be a food truck, it'll be Teenie Wienies food truck ... Right after the market, 8 p.m. is when doors open at the Shaskeen for the after party. That will be Cytokine, Ratblood, and Graveborn playing that, all three local hardcore bands. That's 21-plus \$10 at the door.

So what types of vendors or stalls will be there?

We have quite a range. We have Veri-

Queen City Black Market

When: Saturday, Feb. 1, from 1 to 8 p.m.

Where: Henry J. Sweeney American Legion Post #2, 251 Maple St., Manchester

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More: lustshroometc.square.site

CONTINUED ON PG 30 ▶

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KC and Philly in SB 59



The Big Story – The Super Bowl Match-up is Set: The Kansas City Chiefs' effort to outdo the Patriots dynasty continued Sunday by beating Buffalo again when it counted, this time 32-29, to give

themselves a chance to be the first team to win three straight Super Bowls. They'll try to do that in a rematch of SB 57 thanks to the Eagles crushing Washington 55-23 in the NFC title game.

A win over Philadelphia will put the **Andy Reid/Patrick Mahomes** Chiefs two wins shy of the Pats' six SB wins and move 29-year-old Mahomes one step closer to matching or passing **Tom Brady's** seven titles, all with TB-12 in the booth calling the action for Fox.

Sports 101: Lamar Jackson will find out next week if he'll be NFL MVP for a third time. Name the six players who've won it three or more times already.

News Item – Philly Runs Over Washington: That is what the Eagles did in going for 229 yards on the ground and a league record seven rushing TDs in their 55-23 win over **Jayden Daniels** and company. Three of those TDs came from **Saquon Barkley** and three more from QB **Jalen Hurts** with rookie **Will Shipley** getting the final one.

Barkley's first was a 60-yard scamper on Philly's first play from scrimmage to give him a league record seven TD runs of 60 or more yards in one season. Overall it was 115 yards on 15 carries.

News Item – Red Sox in Free Agency: It was another week of the brass treating their fans like they're stupid by talking a good game and doing nothing as the Dodgers signed the best closer on the market, 23-year-old Japanese phenom **Roki Sasaki**, and **Alex Bregman** is looking like he could be headed back to Houston.

News Item – NBA Feb. 6 Trade Deadline Predictions:

Portland refugee Lob it to **Robert Williams** is reunited with **Ime Udoka** via a trade to the surging Houston Rockets.

Despite sinking in the west, Golden State holds on to dynasty relic **Draymond Green** six months after losing **Klay Thompson** for nothing.

Pat Riley doesn't give in to petulant **Jimmy Butler** and give him the ticket out of Miami he wants.

Brad Stevens has Celtics fans saying "I hope you're right" when he does little to add to his bench.

The Numbers:

11.9 – far short of the 75 percent needed

for election, percent of voters saying **Dustin Pedroia** belongs in Cooperstown.

18 – after sitting on the bench for over seven minutes to start the NFC title game the number of seconds it took the Eagles offense to score when Barkley ran for that 60-yard TD.

... **Of the Week**

Thumbs Up – Josh McDaniels Returns as Patriot OC: He's not the New Age thinker **Ben Johnson** is but he has the championship resume and after doing a great job with **Mac Jones** in his rookie year he's a good fit for **Drake Maye**.

Thumbs Down – Notre Dame: After their championship game loss to Ohio State USA Today's **Dan Wolken** reported a locker-room scene with players cursing out reporters for asking questions they didn't like, him being threatened as he left and ND staffers contributing to the chaos.

Why Can't We Get Guys Like That Award – JuJu Smith-Schuster: The latest recent ex-Patriot to do something big in the playoffs was Ju Ju coming up with two huge catch-and-runs of 32 and 29 yards on separate drives KC cashed in for TDs vs. Buffalo.

What a Stupid I Yam Awards – Me: Whiffed on both predictions for last weekend's games.

Random Thoughts:

Earth to **Tony Romo** – It's true no QB has ever led his team to three straight Super Bowl wins as he reminded us Mahomes is trying to do. But the Super Bowl is just a fancy name for winning the NFL Championship and **Bart Starr** and Green Bay did that in 1965, '66 and '67.

Sports 101 Answer: Jim Brown, Johnny Unitas, Brett Favre and Tom Brady all won MVP three times, while **Aaron Rodgers** did it four times and **Peyton Manning** five.

Final Thought – Last Week's Hall of Fame Voting: The biggest takeaway should be to take away the voting rights of the only person who voted against Ichiro to prevent the Japanese great from being the second unanimous selection behind **Mariano Rivera**. Of course **Willie Mays** had people who voted against him, so my grandfather was right when he said there are more horses' behinds in the world than there are horses. But congrats to **CC Sabathia** and **Billy Wagner**, who deserved their selections as well. And the same people who let steroids enabler **Bud Selig** breeze in still held it against three high-profile users who Bud looked the other way on during his watch in **A-Rod, Manny Ramirez** and **Andy Pettitte**. If Bud's in, they should be too.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com. 🐾

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NEWS & NOTES

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

One way to wake up on a Monday morning

According to the United States Geological Survey (usgs.gov), there was a 3.8 magnitude (wmr) earthquake at 10:22 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, off the coast of Kittery, Maine. It was felt throughout southern Maine and eastern New Hampshire and as far away as the Canadian border.

QOL score: +1, for the novelty

Comment: According to the USGS, an earthquake of this magnitude is generally "felt quite noticeably by persons indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. Many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motor cars may rock slightly. Vibration similar to the passing of a truck." Visit earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/map.

Missing

As reported by WMUR in a Jan. 26 online article, a half-ton historical marker has disappeared in Henniker. A granite slab and plaque dedicated to the historic Ocean Born Mary House disappeared sometime within the past few months. WMUR quoted Sue Fitzer, a Henniker Historical Society board member. "Where is the marker and who took it and why and where is it? Because we'd really like it back," she said. The stone slab is over 6 feet tall and weighs approximately 1,000 pounds, the story said.

QOL score: -1

Comment: WMUR reported that replacing the marker would cost approximately \$2,000. There is a \$500 reward for information leading to the marker's return; ontact the Henniker Police Department.

Flu season

According to a Jan. 26 online story by WMUR, New Hampshire has one of the highest rates of respiratory illness risk in the United States. WMUR reported that "the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services says it's recorded 11 adult deaths so far this flu season." At this time, health officials are especially concerned with flu cases. The article quoted Dr. Lukas Kolm, Medical Staff president and director of emergency services at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. "Even though we've had an uptick in Covid cases, I haven't seen the same severity and symptoms as for the flu," Kolm said.

QOL score: -2

Comment: "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lists New Hampshire as one of three states with high respiratory illness risk per its latest data," WMUR reported, "alongside New Jersey and Wisconsin. The latest numbers show Covid-19 and RSV viruses are also having their own smaller bumps at the same time as the flu."

Tracking down yetis

The Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Haverhill Bank, wants you to take selfies with yetis. According to a post on the Chamber's Facebook page, from Feb. 17 until March 9 people who take pictures of themselves with yetis at participating business throughout the area and post them online will be entered into a raffle to win prizes, including a cruise vacation for two. Cindi Woodbury, executive director of the Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, told Patch.com, "The Great Yeti Quest isn't just about finding Yetis — it's about discovering new ways to support local businesses."

QOL score: +1

Comment: For a complete list of participating businesses and full contest details, visit linktr.ee/SouthernNHChamber.

QOL score: 55

Net change: -1

QOL this week: 54

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

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS

JANUARY 30 AND BEYOND

Thursday, Jan. 30

Guitarist **Ace Frehley**, a Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee and founding member of Kiss, will perform at the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusicall.com) tonight at 8 p.m. This tour commemorates his 10th full-length solo album, *10,000 Volts*. Tickets start at \$75.



Saturday, Feb. 1

Chunky's Cinema Pub (707 Huse Road, Manchester, 206-3888, chunkys.com) will host a **Roper Romp "Paint" Party** tonight at 7:30 p.m., celebrating the character from the 1970s *Three's Company* television series. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite Helen Roper caftan. Reruns of the beloved sitcom will play throughout the event. Tickets are \$45.

and dig into local resources in search of truths. Was it tall tale or town history? Admission is free for Society members and \$10 for nonmembers. No registration is required.

theater scene. This prestigious event honors excellence in all major categories, from acting and directing to design and production. Tickets are \$48.75, through the Capitol Center website.

Saturday, Feb. 1

The 20th **New Hampshire Theatre Awards** will be presented this evening at the Chubb Theatre (Chubb Theatre at CCA, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) beginning at 7 p.m. This will be a gala celebrating the finest achievements in New Hampshire's vibrant



Save the Date! Saturday, Feb. 8

There will be MMA action in Manchester when **Combat Zone MMA** returns to the the SNHU Arena (555 Elm St., 644-5000, snhuarena.com). Combat Zone MMA events feature some of the world's most skilled and talented mixed martial artists. From jaw-dropping knockouts to intense grappling matches, every fight is a showcase of skill, strength, and determination. Tickets start at \$64 through GoTickets.com.

Friday, Jan. 31

Bookery Manchester (844 Elm St., Manchester, 836-6600, bookerymht.com) will host a **Friday Night Jam** tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. Attend in person or participate online. This is a monthly hybrid open mic event featuring performances by poets, writers, musicians and performance artists. Admission and performance are free, on a first-come-first-served basis. Visit bookerymht.com/our-events.

Saturday, Feb. 1

New cosplay, convention and travel store **CosMom ConShop** (100 Main St., Nashua, 438-0497, cosmomconshop.com) will celebrate its grand opening today, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. with tabletop games, video games, tarot readings, poetry readings and birthday cake. Come in costume to compete for prizes and to have your picture taken.

Saturday, Feb. 1

The New Hampshire Historical Society (30 Park St., Concord, 228-6688, nhhistory.org) will host a lecture today at 2 p.m.: **"The Mammoth Road: New Hampshire Folk Tales as an Avenue to Local History and Culture."** Join genealogist, historian and librarian Erin Moulton to hear folk tales collected by the New Hampshire Women's Federation in 1932

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WINTER

ADVICE ON HIKING DURING THE COLDEST SEASON PLUS WINTER BIRDS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

Outdoor enthusiasts don't let snow or single-digit temperatures stop them from getting out there.

Looking to hike (or take a woodland walk) in the winter? Here is some advice from the experts.

Hitting the snowy trail

Matt Larson has hiked all 48 and wrote a book about it called *4000s by 40*, which came out in September.

"I had this mission before I turned 40 to climb all the 4,000-footers," he said. His book can be found on wanderingmattlarson.com. These mountains loomed before Larson.

"I grew up in Massachusetts and I always loved it when we came over to New Hampshire and went skiing in the North Country or were in the Lakes region. I was always very aware of the mountains. They earned a spot in my heart from a very young age," he said.

As a Granite Stater Larson had the perfect opportunity to accomplish his goal.

"I live in the southern part of the state now. I was so excited when that happened because I finally got to be close to all these mountains that I always loved as a kid. When I was coming close to turning 40, I realized that I really hadn't explored all of the mountains that I wanted to. I climbed a few of them, but I just felt like this deep connection with the 4,000-footers. It just felt a shame to me that I hadn't really fully explored them yet. That was my first call to arms, so to speak, for getting out on the trail," he said. He started in the winter because his birthday is in February and gave himself a timeline for the year.

"I started off hiking in the snow and quickly learned that I needed microspikes the first time I went climbing in the winter. I

did not have them and had to learn about the proper gear that was really necessary to take on the mountains during the wintertime and learned a lot fast. I've been doing it for quite a while now," Larson said.

Larson was persistent even as his dream met with reality.

"I had big visions when I first started off, and so I thought I was going to be able to climb two mountains in one day in the middle of winter without microspikes. I went up East Osceola and I was hoping to climb over what's called the chimney from there to Mount Osceola. About halfway up, I thought I had something called Yaktrax in my bag so I thought I had something to help me with the ice. I didn't have spikes yet, but I at least thought I had my Yaktrax with me. I went into my bag to take them out and realized I had left them in the car. So without anything to help me, I really was contemplating turning around. I ended up actually finding a way through. Along the sides of the trail, there's a bunch of thickets and narrowly spaced pines that you can grab onto so I was able to actually get to the top of East Osceola by navigating my way through the trees off the side of the trail, but I wasn't going to shoot for the other peak of Mount Osceola, because it just was way too treacherous-looking."

This close call led Larson to gear up. "Shortly after that climb I went right out to my local EMS store ... and I grabbed myself some microspikes," he said

Most of his journeys were solo missions. "That's not to say I was alone out there. I mean, I was always really surprised. Even that first day in Osceola, I think I got to the parking lot at 6 in the morning and started climbing, and there was already somebody there who beat me to the lot," he recalled. "It's really amazing. I think as time has gone on more and more people are getting into this and getting outdoors. When I completed the 4,000-footers, I think it was sort of a banner year for the AMC in terms of people that were submitting a claim for having finished the 4,000-footers."

Larson is excited that more people are embracing hiking in the cold.

"It's been really nice to see how many people are taking on the adventure but being sensible about it too. The most impressive climbers to me are the ones that are doing

it in the winter because they really are a much more thoughtful bunch about how to prepare for it and be safe. There's plenty of stories of people who have taken on unnecessary risk during the winter, but it's all very doable if people take the sensible approach and mitigate the risk through proper gear and awareness of the terrain and the weather. You do see a lot of people out there, which is great," he said.

As with a river, no hiker steps onto the same mountain twice.

"It definitely changes week to week too. Even this winter. We went up around the Mount Tom and Mount Willey area and there was a little bit of snow on the ground. Then the next week I went out with a buddy to Cannon and it felt like a blizzard had hit the place. Very quickly it went from not needing any spikes or anything really on our feet, or just needing spikes for like a little portion of the trail up Mount Cannon and us contemplating if we even needed snowshoes," Larson said.

The snowy terrain has the possibility for change after change and it is important to be cautious while enjoying the spectacular beauty of nature.

"There'll be times that you're out there and you're using snowshoes for 50 percent of the climb up and then you have to switch back and forth between spikes and snowshoes because it gets really icy in some sections and then it can get really deep in others," he said. "Then there's other times where it doesn't look like it's that icy or that snowy but the rock is so slick. There's sort of a form of black ice on some of the granite. People slip. I slipped a couple of times even with spikes on. You can have some moments where your feet can get pulled out



Photo above and at top by Matt Larson.

from under you. It's definitely important not to rush, especially on the descent. It's always more dangerous on the descent."

One perk of winter hiking is the chance encounter with wildlife.

"When I'm in the 4,000-footers ... I've seen some minks. I've seen plenty of gray jays out of Mount Tom, Mount Willey and Mount Field in particular. ... and of course everything from chipmunks to squirrels, all the usual suspects."

There's always a chance some critter will dart right out toward you. "I think the funniest encounter I had with any animals was one time I was on the trail and it was super quiet. It was kind of spooky how quiet it was. I was kind of thinking there might be a bear around, and I started inching my way up the trail, looking every single direction I could. Just as I started getting comfortable, all of a sudden, all of these pheasants just emerged out of this bush in front of me. There were probably 30 or 40 of them, or quail, I guess. You'll see them out there too. Then there's

CONTINUED ON PG 12 ►

Snowshoes and postholing

Sometimes using **snowshoes** is not just for your own benefit but for keeping the trail in good shape. They're mainly used for traversing powdery or deep snow, to keep you from sinking.

The City of Concord's online guide to local trails (concordnh.gov/1033/Trails) includes this note: "On fresh snow, please use snowshoes. Bare-booting can cause **post-holing**, which is a potential hazard for trail users." Post-holing is trail-speak for when your boot sinks deep into the snow

and leaves a hole. Not only is post-holing no fun, but later, someone else's boot, ski or snowshoe can get tripped up by that hole.

Even with snowshoes, you shouldn't hike on top of ski tracks. In a Feb. 28, 2022, blog post on Sharing Winter Trails (nhrtc.org/sharing-winter-trails), Ellen Kolb wrote, "Where cross-country ski tracks are present, snowshoers and hikers will walk next to rather than on top of them. Slower traffic always stays to the right."



Photo by Matt Larson.

Birds in winter

Grace McCulloch works for the New Hampshire Audubon is excited to get more Granite Staters interested in a winter activity that pairs well with winter walks and hikes: birding.

“One of our favorite projects here at New Hampshire Audubon is the Backyard Winter Bird Survey, which this year is taking place on February 8th and 9th. It’s a weekend out of the year where we encourage people to report the birds that they see in their backyards to us at New Hampshire Audubon. The reporting form will be open for a few days after just so that everyone can get their results in,” McCulloch said.

The Survey has been going strong for decades. “This will be our 38th year doing the Backyard Winter Bird Survey,” she said, “and so over that time we’ve gathered a huge amount of data to really get an understanding of bird trends throughout the state. Being able to look through that kind of year-to-year variation and noise and see what bird species are increasing in number and what species might also be declining in the state.”

The process is simple. “The survey is really easy. We have a simple online survey form on our website where people report what they see over the weekend. They can watch for as little as 15 minutes, or if they’re really dedicated they can watch the entire weekend as well.”

Birders do not need to be experts. “We know that not everyone is out there birding every day, and that’s one of the things I love about the survey, is that it really is supposed to be easy for people who maybe this is the first time that they’re taking time to notice the birds in their backyard.”

The NH Audubon has plenty of helpful information on birds.

“We have a ton of resources on our websites, including a guide to the most common winter birds that people can check out, as well as a guide to commonly confused birds. Because there are species that can look quite similar. You can know that you have a woodpecker, but which woodpecker is it?”

The landscape of birds has changed in the state over the years. “You’d be surprised how dramatically the bird communities have shifted,” McCulloch said. “One example that I like to talk about a lot are American robins and eastern bluebirds. These are species that were once thought of as signs of spring. They arrived just in time for the beginning of spring. When we first started the survey in 1987 they were almost unheard of in February in the state. But today they’re frequently seen by people on the Backyard Winter Bird



Red-bellied woodpecker. Photo by Grace McCulloch.



Tufted titmouse. Photo by Grace McCulloch.

Survey in February. So just in 35 years, a huge shift.”

“We’re also seeing new species appear on the survey, species that are typically found further south. And ... our work is even more important as we look to understand how bird species range and how long they’re staying in the winter might shift over time. We’re ... seeing new species arrive, like red-bellied woodpeckers and Carolina wrens.”

Fan favorites will be making a return as well. “Our most common bird last year was the American goldfinch. We actually had about 10,000 of those reported on the survey. Then other favorite birds like black-capped chickadees, northern cardinals, those are always very distinct birds, easy to identify. We had a lot of blue jays on the survey last year, and also things like mourning doves.”

McCulloch said residents can take steps to entice birds to their homes. “I always encourage people if they want to put up a suet feeder. It’s kind of like a block of suet that you can put up and that really will help attract the woodpeckers. You can see several different woodpeckers just within one weekend. Things like downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers, you can see all three in your backyard. The amazing thing is most of our feeder birds, multiple species, are all feeding together at once, so you have a good chance of seeing more than one species at a time.”

Now is the time to make your guesses on which birds will be showing up.

“Our senior biologist, Pam Hunt, always likes to make predictions for the survey. ... this year, based on some food availability up north, we’re predicting a higher number of red-breasted nuthatches. ... We’re also expecting a fairly good showing of species like red-bellied woodpeckers and Carolina wrens as our winters get warmer over time,” she said.

The Carolina wren has been drawing attention here, she said. “They’re a species that 10 years ago people weren’t seeing in the state, so when you see a brand new bird at your bird feeder, you’re like, ‘What is this bird?’”

“If you’re talking about hiking the 48 4,000-footers in winter, a bird you could always mention is the Canada jay or the gray jay,” McCulloch said. “That’s a bird that you typically only find on the top of mountains in New Hampshire, and you find it in the winter, and they love peanuts and other food that hikers bring them up. They’re known to eat out of hikers’ hands on the top of the snowy mountains,” she said. 🍌

— Zachary Lewis

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CONTINUED FROM PG 10

some turkeys along the way and mostly birds, birds and squirrels," he said.

Regardless of the locale, hiking a mountain trail in the winter is a joy that Larson hopes others in the Granite State can experience for themselves.

"I love winter hiking. I love hiking at any time ... but winter hiking is very peaceful. There really is a serenity to winter hiking that I think is unique. I definitely encourage people to try it if they're thinking about it. One of the reasons why I wanted to write *4,000s by 40* was because I feel like there's a lot of stories out there about the dangers of the mountains. I think there is inherent risk in climbing, but I do think that it's something that's a venture that everybody can enjoy if they just take sensible steps, there's no reason they shouldn't be able to enjoy winter hiking, too," Larson said.

On gearing up

Renee Robertie works at REI in Bedford. She is a committee member of the New Boston Rail Trail and an avid hiker. She gives quarterly free talks on all things hiking-related, such as waterproofing and the 10 essentials to bring on every hike (her next talk will be on Saturday, April



Renee Robertie. Courtesy photo.

26; email nbrailtrail@gmail.com for more information).

According to Robertie, rail trails are a great introduction to the world of winter hiking.

"It gives people an opportunity to get outside, get some exercise, do some hiking, ride the trail maybe, and these are folks that may or may not necessarily be in a physical condition or have the desire to do something more strenuous such as something in the White Mountains. So it's a glade in between. It's a beautiful path that's an old railroad bed of course, and there are benches along the

Where to hike

Here are some ideas for finding winter (and all-season) hiking spots that match your skill level and interest.

- Renee Robertie suggested checking out **rail trails**. See nbrailtrail.com for information on the New Boston Rail Trails, including maps and a link to the group's social media for updates on conditions. For information about rail trails throughout the state, check out the New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition at nhrtc.org, which offers links to rail trail groups around the state and brief descriptions of the trails.

- **The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests** offers a visitor's guide that lets you filter through its properties for location, difficulty of trail and specific activity like snowshoeing or bird-watching. See forestsociety.org/visitor-guide.

- On the **New Hampshire State Parks** website, a specific guide to winter parks includes popular hiking parks as well as spots for snowshoeing, fat biking, ice fishing and mushing. See nhstateparks.org/things-to-do/winter-recreation.

- **The New Hampshire Audubon** (nhaudubon.org) will hold its annual Backyard Birding Survey Saturday, Feb. 8, and Sunday, Feb. 9. See the website for details. While you're there, check out the information about their trails at sanctuaries near the Audubon's centers including the Susan N. McLane Center in Concord and the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn as well as wildlife

sanctuaries across the state. The sanctuaries page offers maps and guides to each property.

- **Beaver Brook Association** (117 Ridge Road in Hollis; beaverbrook.org) has 35+ miles of trails, according to the website, as well as ongoing fitness hikes that can get you started by letting you hike with a crowd.

- **The state Division of Travel and Tourism Development** describes 10 winter hike options including Mount Major, with its views of Lake Winnepesaukee; the ever-popular Mount Monadnock; and hiker favorite Mount Cardigan, "a very popular area for hiking and snowshoeing," at visitnh.gov/blog/10-popular-winter-hikes.

- Picturesque **local parks with trails** are good places for winter strolls, usually not too hilly, such as Mine Falls Park in Nashua (nashuanh.gov/491/Mine-Falls-Park), Livingston Park and other city trails in Manchester (manchesternh.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-Trails-and-Facilities/Recreational-Trails), and several park trails in Concord (concordnh.gov/1033/Trails). According to the Concord trails website, there are three group hikes currently scheduled: On Saturday, Feb. 22, at 9:30 a.m., Bob Lyon will lead a 3-mile hike on Broken Ground trails; on Saturday, March 29, Peter Bartlett will lead a Morono Park trails hike, and on Saturday, April 26, at 9:30 a.m., Wendy Olson will lead a hike of the Winant Park trails. 🍂

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way and you can sit and just kind of watch the river because it follows the flow of the river. It's just a nice time to be out in the woods," she said.

Robertie laid out the basics of hitting the trail in winter.

"The first area [is] the clothing. Layering your clothing so that you can have flexibility to regulate your heat and any moisture if you're aggressively walking or even running the trail," she said.

Wool is an excellent choice for the first layer. "A typical base layer would be something that is wool or a wool blend or a synthetic type of clothing. There are pros and cons to either one, wool being a little bit more expensive than synthetic but it's a really good insulator so even when it gets wet it still insulates and can keep you warm. Wool comes in various densities. It might be a light, a medium or a heavy type of wool," Robertie said.

"The next layer is an insulating layer. Typically that's fleece or it could be even like a down jacket or something thicker that's going to insulate your heat and keep it in because you're the one that's generating the heat," she said. Layering allows you to adjust the thermostat of your own body.

"Then the third layer is a shell layer and that keeps out moisture. So say if it's raining or snowing or even if snow is dropping from

the tree branches or something like that. You keep your base layer and then you can regulate your heat by adding or removing the other two layers or even just opening up, so unzipping if you've got a quarter zip, the zip that is from the neck down to above your chest, or even fully unzipping if you're that warm," she said.

The human head is like a chimney where a good amount of heat escapes. "Not having a hat can account for losing about 10 percent of your body heat, so if you're getting too warm you can take your hat off, if you need a little more warmth you can put your hat on," she said.

Leg gaiters are also an option to consider. "A gaiter is simply a waterproof fabric that has a strap that goes under your boot and then either zips or more typically these days Velcros around your leg. It's made of a rugged material so if you are wearing something like microspikes and you happen to get it caught on your ankle or shin it's not going to damage a good pair of pants."

Foot covering is an obvious necessity in the winter too. "There are different insulation types for boots and you can get very warm ... but the insulation in the boots can help keep your feet warm. Certainly things like hand warmers or toe warmers are a good idea too if you're not quite sure what you're going to encounter," she said.

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ARTS

Arts exchange

Colby-Sawyer showcases Italian program

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Every year for more than two decades, students from Colby-Sawyer College in New London head to Italy for a semester at the Florence School of Fine Arts. The city serves as the study abroad program's laboratory and studio. For the first time, an upcoming exhibition will show some of their works, along with those of the artists who run the school.

"Florence is filled with antiquities, art objects, museums and cathedrals; it's very inspiring," Jon Keenan, a professor who also runs the Davidow Fine Art Gallery at Colby-Sawyer, said in a recent phone interview. "These students are translating their experience of their studies there, and we're able to exhibit it."

Keenan got the idea during a visit last year

with Florence School of Fine Arts founder Melania Lanzini, and photographer Charles Loverme, Lanzini's husband, who runs the school with her. "I've been working with them pretty much since they started up," he said. "We were saying, 'We should have an exhibition, to highlight and celebrate our relationship.'"

Lanzini and Loverme will both display works.

"Melania does a lot of lithography and collage work," Keenan said. "She's combining both traditional and contemporary approaches, working with some found objects, as well as depicting scenes in and around Florence and the area that they live in."

In an artist statement, Loverme described the work he'll bring to the exhibit: "For the past two decades, Italy has been both my home and my muse. Living in the historic center of Florence for 20 years, and now amidst the rolling hills of Chianti, I've found inspiration in the juxtaposition of city and countryside. This series explores these contrasting worlds."

His black and white images primarily capture what Loverme calls "the timeless geometry of urban life, the interplay of light and shadow [that] highlights the city's elegance," while his color work focuses on



Courtesy photo.

rural subjects that "draw the eye to the small, overlooked details of the natural world — fallen leaves, scattered fruit, and the quiet poetry of decay."

Representing Colby-Sawyer are Brian Cal-Mallo, who's both a painter and photographer, printmaker Alex Jenkins, and Sota Morishita, a photographer. All are studio art and graphic design majors who studied in Florence during the summer program in 2024.

"Though varied in their chosen media, each artist shares common ground in finding inspiration in the contrasts of beauty in Florence, the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, and the Tuscan region," Keenan said. "This exhibition reminds us not only that art is a joy to experience but also a universal language and a vibrant expression of our shared humanity."

The exhibit will open on Jan. 30 with the three student artists in attendance.

"We always do a nice reception to celebrate the audience and create community through the arts," Keenan said. "We're going



Art by Colby-Sawyer students. Courtesy photo.

to have lots of great food and beverages."

It runs through April 2, and Loverme will visit on the final day for a meet and greet, and to discuss his work.

Funded by William H. and Sonja Carlson Davidow, the latter a 1956 Colby-Sawyer graduate, the gallery opened six years ago. Keenan was involved in the conception and execution of the state-of-the-art facility where it resides, which also has a black box theater and multiple facilities for students to create in.

It sits amidst natural beauty, with Mt. Kearsarge in view, and Keenan hosts six events a year in the gallery.

"My goal is to create community, bring people together through the arts," he said. "This venue is the ideal place to do that — to provide learning for the public, and to support the arts. Whatever we can do to keep it happening is our privilege." 🌱

Opening Reception: The Florence School of Fine Arts & Colby-Sawyer College Art Project

When: Thursday, Jan. 30, 4-6 p.m.
Where: Davidow Fine Art Gallery, 541 Main St., New London
More: colby-sawyer.edu

Art

Exhibits

- "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, nh.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 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; nh.audubon.org) until Saturday, Feb. 22. 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 Currier 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; nh.audubon.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). The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4 p.m. and by appointment.

Theater

- **Piano Men**, a musical produc-

tion featuring the works of Freddie Mercury, Elton John, Barry Manilow, Billy Joel, Carole King, Lady Gaga and more, runs at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester; palacetheatre.org) through Sunday, Feb. 9. with shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$35.

- **The Silver Stars: Showstoppers!** A mix of dance, comedy skits and song performed by performers age 55 and over, will be presented on Wednesday, Feb. 5,

and Thursday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12 to \$15.

Classical

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

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

A vehicle for every height

CAR TALK



By Ray Magliozzi

My husband drives a 2021 Toyota Highlander, which, for me, is almost too high to enter. Is there a model of car that would sit higher than my Accord but lower than the Highlander? — Gail

How about a Highlander and a pair of platform shoes, Gail? Actually, yes, there are vehicles that are higher off the ground than the Accord and lower than the Highlander — about half the cars on the market these days. This is a development that was long overdue. It's hard to believe it took more than 100 years after the invention of the automobile. For decades, we've had cars that you would fall into and climb out of. And we had trucks that you would climb up into and fall out of. And one day, some

Dear Car Talk:

I am a fairly active, 78-year-old woman who would like to know which car to buy. I love my 2017 Honda Accord but am finding it more difficult to get in and out of it because it sits lower to the ground. My

very smart automotive designer turned to a colleague and said, "Hey, what if we put the seats at, like, butt height?"

And now, not surprisingly, that's what most people want. And there are a ton of these so-called "crossover SUVs" on the market now. If you like the way your Honda drives, you might want to test drive a Honda CR-V hybrid, which I love. Or the smaller, lower HR-V, which I don't love as much but maybe you will. Ford has the Bronco Sport and the Escape. Toyota makes the RAV4. Nissan makes the Rogue. Chevy makes the Equinox. BMW makes the X1. Subaru makes the Forester and Crosstrek. Hyundai makes the Tucson and even the Ionic5 if you want to go electric. And if you want to stick to a sedan, drive a Toyota Crown. There's one of these to fit every budget and butt height. And there's one that will appeal to you with its driving style, comfort and looks.

So start at the Honda dealer, since you like your Accord, but if they don't have anything that feels exactly right, go on a little test drive tour. Virtually every car dealer in America will have a vehicle in their showroom now that meets your seat, Gail.

Visit Cartalk.com. 🍌

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

I believe this was from my first communion in the 1950s. I just realized the flowers are wax. I think my sister who is older used it as well. Can you give me any information on floral crowns? Can this be cleaned to pass down to my grandchildren?

Meg

Dear Meg,

Thanks for the pictures. They really help.

I would start off asking more questions of family, and looking at even older pictures. Sometimes crowns could start in one part of a family like a cousin and then get passed through to yours. This could have even been part of a wedding crown, dating it back to the early 1900s. So this could have a lot more family history. Wax flowers fall under millinery. They were commonly used with, on and for headwear — decorative flowers etc. The values on older pieces of wax flow-



ers are in the age, detail, design and, as always, condition. The more details and colors the higher the values. I found values of wax florals like yours to be in the \$40 range.

I think, Meg, your flowers look to be in good condition. Discoloration is expected so I might leave them. Cleaning them could result in some dam-

age. Meg, I would see if I could find out if this was from family and where the crown started. This will give your grandchildren more appreciation for it as well. Family history of items is priceless!

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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144876

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

Dinner and a movie

• **Burnt Timber Brewing & Tavern** (96 Lehner St., Wolfeboro, burnttimbertavern.com) will hold a **“Date Night, Kid-Approved”** event on Friday, Jan. 31, at 6:30 p.m. with a movie for kids to give parents a chance to have dinner. The tavern will screen *Wild Robot* (PG, 2024) in one of its rooms where kids can bring bean bags and watch the movie, according to a press release. Meanwhile, parents can enjoy a meal in the main dining room, the release said.

• **Happy Feet** (PG, 2006) will screen at **Chunky’s Cinema Pub**, 707 Huse Road in Manchester, on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 11:30 a.m. as part of the Little Lunch Date Series. Admission costs \$5 per person and includes a \$5 food voucher.

Gametime

• The **NHTI Lynx men’s basketball team** has games Thursday, Jan. 30, at 8 p.m. (versus Central Maine Community College); Saturday, Feb. 1, at 2 p.m. (versus Word of Life) and

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 13

After clothing, Robertie will speak on staying secure in your footing.

“Traction is what keeps you from slipping. Some boots have deep lugs, so kind of the bumps on the bottom ... But sometimes you need a little bit more, so I talked about things like microspikes, which are quarter-inch spikes on chains that are attached to a ... rubber-type thing that you put on the toe of your boot and then draw it back and up around your heel. That holds the spikes in place underneath your foot. So the microspikes are good when there’s definitely ice and they are very grippy.”

Bigger spikes are needed for the mountains. “I didn’t go into crampons or anything like that because that’s more of a steeper mountain, mountaineering kind of traction. ... That’s a big spike that’s maybe a 3- or 4-inch spike that, it’s not just one spike, it’s a series of spikes underneath your boot that provides a lot of traction and is meant for very steep and very icy trails.”

And sometimes a wide, flat surface is what is called for in the winter.

“I spoke about snowshoes as well, which typically don’t come into play too much on a rail trail because there’s so much foot traffic, but if you’re breaking ground in snow a snowshoe is going to help you stay buoyant on the snow instead of possibly falling in. ... The rail trails are typically packed down, but

Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. (versus Paul Smith’s College) at the Dr. Goldie Crocker Wellness Center on campus in Concord. The women will play Central Maine on Thursday at 6 p.m., Word of Life on Saturday at noon and Paul Smith’s College on Sunday at noon. Admission is free. See nhtiathletics.com.

• The **Rivier University Raiders women’s ice hockey team** will play Mass. Liberal Arts on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 6:40 p.m. at the Conway Arena (5 Stadium Drive, Nashua). See rivierathletics.com.

• The **Saint Anselm College Hawks men’s ice hockey team** has games Friday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1, at 3 p.m., both versus Post University at Sullivan Arena (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester). See saintanselmhawks.com.

• The **SNHU Penmen men’s ice hockey team** also has two games this weekend: Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:40 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m., both against Saint Michael College. Home games take place at Ice Den Arena (600 Quality Drive, Hooksett). See snhupenmen.com.

On stage

• Catch the final show of the Palace Youth Theatre’s **Grease, school edition** on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org). Tickets cost \$16 to \$19. 🍷

after a snowstorm, if you’re the first one out, there’s definitely a possibility that you could be running into some deep snow.”

Trekking poles can help you stay upright. “Trekking poles are great for stability. If you’re older or even young people nowadays, it’s really great for staying stable on your trail. It helps you walk a little more briskly. And if you’re doing a water crossing, which typically you don’t do on a rail trail but you might do on one of the town trails. It’s great for descent and especially if you’ve got bad knees because it takes some of the pressure off your knees.”

Robertie also mentioned the benefits of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Hike Safe Card. “The Hike Safe, which is through the New Hampshire Fish and Game, is something that you can purchase to help support the Hampshire Fish and Game. It’s \$25 for an individual, \$35 for a family, and if you have that and have not been irresponsible, if it happens that you do need to be rescued, then you won’t be charged the rescue costs.”

She hopes to spread her enthusiasm about winter hiking to others. “It’s all about getting outdoors. The fresh air, the health benefits of being in a forest are well documented and studied. We want people to do that and we want them to do it safely and more than anything to have fun and enjoy it. It’s a great resource. The more people out there, the better,” Robertie said. 🍷

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FOOD

Viking vibes at Sunstone Brewing

New brewery keeps it simple

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **A beer release party:** On Sunday, Feb. 3, the Candia Road Brewing Co. (840 Candia Road, Manchester, 935-8123, candiaroadbrewingco.com) will hold a release party for a new beer it has developed in collaboration with the band BIGFÜT, “little bigfüt.” Candia Road describes the new beer as a “nice and classy Thai Basil x Lemongrass saison.” The bands Time Eater and BIGFÜT will play from 3 to 5 p.m.

• **Chef’s Table dinners in February:** The Chef’s Table Dinner Series of monthly dinner events at Flag Hill Winery (297 N. River Road, Lee, 659-2949, flaghill.com) continues with February’s dinners of mushroom Wellington, lamb chops, crispy pork belly, and mango-lime cheesecake. The dinners have community seating for six to 10 people per table. Dinner reservations are \$75 per person, through eventbrite.com, which includes the four-course dinner, wine/spirit/cocktail pairings with each course, tax and hospitality.

• **Cheers and happy birthday:** Tickets are on sale now for Unwined Wine Bar’s (1 Nashua St., Milford, 213-6703, unwinednh.com) Birthday Dinner, to celebrate its first anniversary on Thursday, Feb. 13, beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be a wine dinner featuring five courses, curated by Executive Chef Matthew Berry and Claudio Andreani of Santa Margherita wines. Tickets are \$150 each, through Eventbrite.com.

• **Farmer’s Dinner tickets:** Tickets for 2025 dinners by The Farmers Dinner (farmersdinner.com) are on sale now. For the 13th year, Chef Keith Sarasin and his team will work with local farms and producers to bring the freshest farm-to-table fine dining to life. Tickets sell out quickly. Visit thefarmersdinner.com/events-1.

• **Organic farming knowledge and networking:** Registration is open for the New England Organic Farming Association’s (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-5022, NOFA.org) 23rd Annual Winter Conference, which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Southern New Hampshire University (2500 N. River Road, Manchester, 800-668-1249, snhu.edu). 🍷

The first thing Brian Link and his business partner Cam Carter want you to know is that their new Viking-themed brewpub is centered around medieval Scandinavian warriors, not the Minnesota football team.

“Yeah, we’re Patriots fans!” Link stated, emphatically.

Along with their friend and manager Jessica Cotto, Link and Carter opened Sunstone Brewing Co. in Londonderry just over two months ago, in the former Long Blue Cat location. This is their first time running their own place.

“Brian and I had worked at a brewery together for the last four or five years and hit it off really well,” Carter said. “And we started thinking up this idea of opening our own place and working for ourselves. All three of us are big Viking fans; we love all the Nordic things. We just wanted to create a space that was very original and fantastical and just build a community that people can come into and feel warm and inviting.” The name Sunstone is meant to reflect that quality. In the Middle Ages, Vikings and other Nordic people used faceted crystals called sun stones to locate the sun in an otherwise cloudy sky. These might have been used in navigation, and gave comfort to

Sunstone Brewing Co.

Where: 298 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 216-1808

Hours: Wednesday from 4 to 9 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

More: sunstonebrewing.com

Food and growlers of beer can be ordered for takeout. Veterans, active duty military, first responders and teachers get a 10 percent discount.

them in dark and cloudy times.

Following a “less is more” philosophy, owners and brewers Link and Carter made the decision not to overextend themselves at the beginning of their business and have concentrated on brewing and serving a small number of craft beers.

“This is our first business, our first brewery, so we just wanted to take it step by step — ‘keep it simple stupid,’” Link explained. “We took an approach where we have only eight draft lines, so we’re trying to create as much diversity as we can with only eight. So what we’ve done is we have four real set styles. There’s our Sunstone Golden Ale. It’s a lighter beer that really tastes like a beer. It’s got a little bit of graininess to it. It has a very light hop character, so that way it’s easy drinking.”

Some of Sunstone’s other beers have even more Viking-ish names.

“Our next [beer] we have is our God Slayer,” Link continued. “That one’s a New England-style IPA [India Pale Ale]. It’s got some nice mango and peach flavor coming off the hops, a little bit of citrus. It’s a good big eight and a half percent beer [8.5 percent Alcohol By Volume or ABV]. And then the next one is our Light Your Torches; that one’s an espresso porter. It’s got a little bit of coffee in it, so it’s got a lot of robust coffee flavor, some roasted characteristics to it. Basically, we saw how popular espresso martinis are these days.... And we’ve got our Keep It Low-Key [Get it?], which is a New England-style session IPA, so [an ABV of] 4.5 percent. It’s big on citrus. It’s meant to be for someone who wants an IPA, still wants that hazy and that hop flavor, but you’re not drinking an 8 percent, you’re drinking 4.5 percent. So you can actually have a few and enjoy them without being hammered.”

The team has taken the same approach



Photo by John Fladd.

to Sunstone’s food, building a small initial menu of dishes that can be prepared in a very small kitchen.

“When you look at our food menu, it’s kind of the same thing,” Carter said. “We try to keep it simple, but really good stuff for people when they’re hungry.” The menu focuses on pub-style appetizers, like nachos and hummus and pretzel bites and then sliders, wraps, and mac and cheese. “The Mac & Beer Cheese is a favorite,” he said.

Sunstone is planning a slate of events to appeal to their already growing customer base. For example, “for Valentine’s Day,” manager Jessica Crotto said, “We’re partnering with Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester to serve a flight of four beers paired with chocolates. We haven’t nailed in the name yet, but I think we want to call it a ‘Chocolate Flight Delight.’ And then we have a full stage ... so we’re looking to do live music, comedy shows, I mean I’ve thrown out the idea for magicians, illusionists, everything you could think of. I mean I think it’d be really fun to do.” 🍷

FOOD

Paying it forward

Customers help out at Soel Sistas

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Feeding the hungry is a priority for any restaurant, but Kendra Smith, the owner and chef of Soel Sistas Soul Food in Nashua, has worked to expand that mission statement. She remembers that it started with a hungry-but-broke customer.

“We had a gentleman come in,” Smith

said, “and he asked for a meal and I kind of just looked at him and I was like, huh? But I made him a meal, and we just comped it [gave it to him without charge]. I was like, you know what? I can’t afford to feed everybody. But there was an idea I had seen on Facebook last winter. If [a customer] knows about it, they can come in, grab a ticket off of the board, bring it right to the cashier, they’ll bring it to the

kitchen, and then we’ll bring out their food.”

“The Board” refers to a wall of a pillar near the front of the restaurant, where a selection of meal tickets are posted, the type a server fills out with a customer’s order to send to the kitchen. These tickets are for meals that other customers have already paid for, either in person or online.

CONTINUED ON PG 22 ▶

IN THE KITCHEN

WITH **ELISBET DUPONT**



Elisbet Dupont. Courtesy photo.

Baker and owner of Bittersweet Bake Shoppe (272 Derry Road, Litchfield, 978-649-2253, bittersweetbakeshoppe.com)

Elisbet Dupont is a graphic designer from Venezuela and the new owner of Bittersweet Bake Shoppe.

"I came here 20 years ago," she said. "I work a lot with my hands. I love designing and crafting things with my hands. I love decorating cakes — that's how I came to the bakery to work for Lynn [former Bittersweet Bake Shop owner Lynn Donnelly]. I was making figures with fondant or buttercream. That was my job here, helping her decorating birthday cakes I worked with her for 14 years — for 10 years in Tyngsboro, and then after 10 years she moved here. I had a food truck called Tres Latinas. There were three girls and we opened it in the pandemic. It was open for four years, and then I decided to close it last year. And now I'm in business by myself. I just became the owner of the bakery last week. It feels exciting and overwhelming at the same time."

What is your must-have item in your kitchen?

Flour. I need to have that to make everything. It's the main ingredient for everything I make. I use flour for bread, and then flour for pastries. My specialty is cachitos — a light wheat bread stuffed with ham, or chicken, or guava.

What is your favorite thing on your menu?

My favorite thing is that — the cachitos. I didn't have a lot of room to make it in the food truck, so now I feel I have the space and the equipment to make them and then bake them. It's easier for me. And people are loving them so it makes me really happy.

What would you have for your last meal?

I would have scrambled eggs and a cachito and tres leches cake. I like my scrambled eggs a little soft.

What is your most popular item?

I think birthday cakes are what people call in the most orders for. ... The rest of the items — cookies and pastries — they

are here because we want to offer them, and we know that people like them, but the item that people call us for is birthday cake.

What is your favorite place to eat, locally?

I'm Spanish-speaking, so I like Mexican food. Around here, I love California Burritos; they're really good.

Is there a celebrity you would like to see eating your food?

I had David Ortiz, the baseball player, try my food. He went to the food truck and he tried my arepas. He loved it. I made the arepa in the shape of his logo. It was very nice.

What do you like to cook at home?

At home, I make arepas for my daughter. I make them with cheese, with butter, and with chicken for my husband, bacon, bacon, egg and cheese — kind of an American arepa. And then pasta with my homemade tomato sauce. My daughter asked me to have that here at the bakery, but I don't know if I can include that item here. I don't know yet. 🍷

Venezuelan Tres Leches Cake (Three-Milk-Cake)

1 stick of unsalted butter (room temperature)
 1 cup of granulated sugar
 5 eggs (room temperature)
 1 Tablespoon baking powder
 1 cup all-purpose flour
 1 cup condensed milk
 1 cup evaporated milk
 1 cup whole milk
 2 cups whipped cream (topping)
 Using a mixer combine the stick of butter and sugar until fluffy. Add the eggs one by

one, then add flour and baking powder, and mix until smooth.
 Spray baking oil on a 10" by 10" square baking pan and pour in the batter. Bake in a 350°F oven for about 20-25 minutes. Once the cake is baked you can cut it 4x4 to get 16 small pieces. Pour the three milks combined in the cake, and let it soak in the refrigerator for a couple hours. You can decorate with whipped cream and enjoy a delicious Venezuelan Tres Leches Cake!

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DRINKS WITH JOHN FLADD

Alexander. Brandy Alexander.

In Ian Fleming's 1960 short story "Risiko" spy James Bond is supposed to meet with another agent in a hotel bar. Never having met him, he is supposed to be on the lookout for a man drinking a Brandy Alexander. In an interior monologue, Bond is impressed by this detail. It is such a feminine drink, he thinks, that a man will be able to be recognized much better than he would be by holding a newspaper folded in a particular way or wearing a specific flower in his lapel.

As with many of the opinions expressed by the literary James Bond, this one hasn't aged particularly well. Aside from some antiquated gender norming, Flemming missed a golden — and in hindsight obvious — opportunity. Brandy Alexander is a classic name for a female character in a Bond piece. Brandy would be beautiful of course, with dark hair cut startlingly (for Bond at least) short. She'd have a musical laugh and flashing dark eyes, and be an expert poker player and gifted butterfly collector. She would also be Europe's most notorious cat

burglar and jewel thief.

In the movie version she would be played by Audrey Hepburn and would have her own theme song, written by Henry Mancini.

At the end of the story, Bond would find himself with an attaché case notably empty of jewels, and a cheeky note dabbed with Brandy's perfume, shaking his head and staring at her sports car disappearing into the distance.

Regardless of all that, Friday, Jan. 31 is National Brandy Alexander day, and we should celebrate with a cocktail, if not an actual jewel theft.

Brandy Alexander

1½ ounces brandy — some pedants will say it should be cognac, or brandy from a particular monastery in the mountains of Latvia, but let's face it: you're mixing it with crème de cacao — you're probably not looking for subtle nuances here

1 ounce crème de cacao

¼ teaspoon unsweetened cocoa powder

1 ounce light cream or half & half
Ice

Combine the brandy, crème de cacao and cocoa powder in a cocktail shaker, and dry shake it for 30 seconds or so. This means without ice. The trouble-maker here is the cocoa powder. Cocoa is hydrophobic, meaning that it doesn't like dissolving in water. If you tried to mix it with the other ingredients over ice, you'd end up with little clumps of cocoa stuck to the ice cubes, bringing the sophistication of the drink down by about 15 percent. If you shake it vigorously with liquor, however, it will mix in pretty well. Like many of us, it is easier to get along with after enthusiastic exposure to alcohol.

Add ice and cream to the mixture, and shake for another 30 seconds or so, then strain into a cocktail or coupe glass. If you judged your shaking right, there should be just a few tiny ice chips floating on the surface.

Ask your digital assistant to play the



Brandy Alexander. Photo by John Fladd.

James Bond theme, and sip your Brandy Alexander to it. You won't be sorry.

Unlike many cream-based cocktails, this isn't overly sweet. There is some residual sweetness from the crème de cacao, but it is balanced by the bitterness of the cocoa powder and the richness of the cream. The brandy is able to stand proudly in the front of this jazz combo of a cocktail. It carries a caché of sophistication and inspires confidence. 🍷

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 20

"There was a post on Facebook, which had kind of gone viral a little bit," Smith said, "and there's a Venmo link on there that people can use, or they can come in and pay for a meal if they'd like. I've had some people donate who didn't specify anything from the menu, and told me, 'Use your discretion.' So I wrote out orders for some eight-piece meals for families. They can come in and grab a meal because I know it's hard. I had four kids too, so there were six of us. Every time we went out, it was like a grocery bill, right?"

Knowing how tough it can be to feed

a family when someone is food-insecure, Smith has worked to keep some of her menu items priced to be within reach for a parent who is struggling financially. "We like to keep our kids' meals at five dollars," she said, "just because I feel like that's easy for most people to be able to afford. So if somebody came in and they had four kids they could get four kids' meals and that would only be \$20. We print up the tickets, we put it right up on the board and then somebody can just come in and use it."

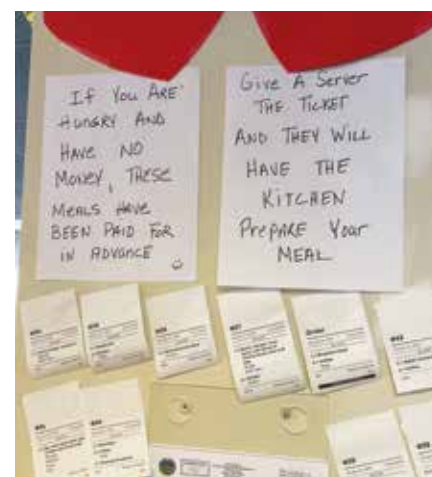
Soel Sistas serves what Smith described as "Southern American Delicacies."

"We serve fried chicken," she gave as an example, "collard greens, smothered pork chops [which means that they are fried, then covered with gravy and onions], and shrimp and grits." These are dishes from Smith's childhood, and feed into her philosophy of community

— in this case, bringing her family traditions into the broader Nashua community. Weekly specials at Soel Sistas can include, braised oxtails, chicken and waffles, sausage and chicken gumbo, cornbread and fried catfish.

Smith has put a lot of thought into food options on her menu that children and teenagers will actually eat and can buy inexpensively or grab a ticket off the board for.

"We have a lot of kids that come in here," she said, "and they like our snack box, which is \$10, because they can choose from the things that they're used to. French fries, mozzarella sticks, pizza bites, onion rings, tops, chicken tenders. I have a couple kids that come in and they'll get all corn dogs because you get to pick three [items]. That's just, it's kids' stuff. It's what they like. It's easy. I like to try it. Corn dogs are just good stuff. Or I might



The Board at Soel Sistas. Photo by John Fladd.

point them to our Soul Plate. So again, if you got an eight-piece bucket, then you might have something left over for later. You get two large sides and then cornbread as well with the protein." 🍷

Soel Sistas Soul Food

Where: 30 Temple St., Suite 202, Nashua, 943-1469

Hours: open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Fridays from noon to 8 p.m. It is also a full-service catering operation.

More: soelsistas.com

To buy a meal for another customer, pay

in person or via Venmo @Soel-SistasLLC.

Owner Kendra Smith also runs Feed The Kids (soelsistas.com/feed-the-kids), a charitable organization to feed hungry children during school vacations, when many do not have access to regular meals, which would welcome help or donations. She is also part of the Meals on Wheels' Dine Out program

that allows food-insecure seniors to go out for dinner. Details of all these programs are available on the Soel Sistas website.

According to the food advocacy organization Feeding America (feedingamerica.org), 9.5 percent of the population of Hillsborough County, more than 40,000 people, are food-insecure.

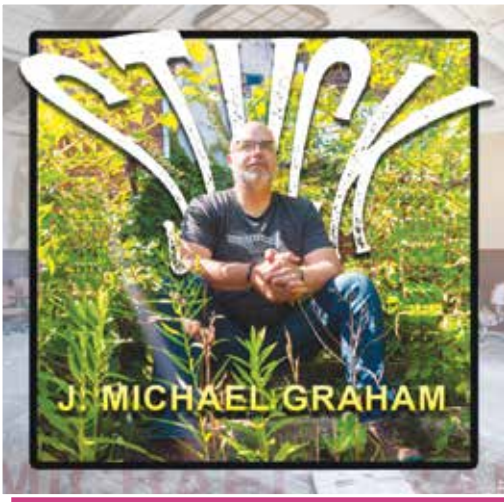


Kendra Smith. Photo by John Fladd.

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

J. Michael Graham, *Stuck* (self-released)



Debut six-song record from this Manchester, N.H., native, who's nowadays running his operation out of Rhode Island. He's worked his way up in the world, having opened up for basically anyone who'll have him, from James Montgomery to The Samples to, um, waitwhat, the Dresden Dolls. What's going on here is a mostly unplugged Dylan-meets-Tom Petty entry. The record's release party was set for Feb. 7 at Chantilly's Restaurant in Hooksett. **B** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Niambi, *Taboo* (Easier Said Records)



Debut solo EP for this Washington, D.C.,-born artist, who, after establishing herself as one-half of the neo-soul/hip-hop duo OSHUN now operates out of Puerto Rico. I really have no complaints regarding this record aside from its length; hopefully there'll be a lot more of her to hear soon. On first listen I'd attest that this stuff is state-of-the-art trip-hop, beginning with "Soccer Mom," whose subliminally buzzy busy-signal-ish sample fits perfectly with this lady's stoned-out-of-her-gourd-style flow; it's underground to a fault but simultaneously non-threatening, given

its sexually ambivalent attitude (Billie Eilish could learn some things from this girl, take that however you wish). "No Budget" is a page right out of Massive Attack's *Heligoland*-era schematic, with a lazy, tick-tocking drum line reminiscent of "Teardrop" (the theme to the old *House* TV series if you're unfamiliar). "Run It" is the record's final entry, the closest thing to a trap joint in the set but undeniably soulful. Great things ahead for this lady, no doubt. **A+** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Cool beans, we're almost done with stupid wasteful frozen January already, let's go! Friday the 31st will see a bunch of new albums, which we must talk about now, so let's do that, please let's! Why don't we kick off the week with *The Purple Bird* from **Bonnie 'Prince' Billy**, real name Joseph Oldham, known for his "do-it-yourself punk aesthetic and blunt honesty." Music critics who are just trying to get their columns finished for the week usually associate his music with Americana, folk, roots, country, punk and indie rock, but this new album's leadoff single, "London May," is Guster-like and formulaic in a sonic sense: The piano-bonking chorus is compelling enough to prevent it from being written off as unlistenable, much as it deserves it. "Downstream" is more interesting, possessed of a bluegrass patina that mixes dobro and Irish ren-faire folk; it'd be pretty great if not for the guest vocal from overrated country singer John Anderson. Oldham is trying too hard to be eclectic there, but *Flight of the Conchords* fans will probably like it for its faux-sincerity and world music feel.

• **L.S. Dunes** is something of an Aughts supergroup, fronted by Circa Survive/Saosin vocalist Anthony Green, who's backed by My Chemical Romance guitarist Frank Iero, Coheed and Cambria guitarist Travis Stever, bassist Tim Payne and drummer Tucker Rule from the band Thursday. Their new LP *Violet* is heading to your Soundclouds as we speak; it's the follow-up to their 2022 debut *Past Lives*, which sputtered at No. 174 in the U.S. charts despite its spazzy screamo/extreme-metal-tinged single "Permanent Rebellion," which is nevertheless a pretty cool tune if you give it a chance (since I know you won't bother, I'd urge you instead to go listen to the new album's title track, which is in the same vein but slightly more accessible, sort of like Fall Out Boy with a jet pack strapped to its butt). These guys are definitely on to something, but their survival depends on suburban American youth's capacity for taking scream seriously in [current_year]. (One annoying side effect of my looking into this band on YouTube was that I've ever since been spammed by ads for the Coheed and Cambria/Taking Back Sunday tour, which, by the way, will be coming to Boston's MGM Music Hall on August 30; I will not be attending that one, for the record.)

• **Manic Street Preachers** is a Welsh alt-rock band that's done some interesting stuff over the near 40 years of their existence, including their older hit "La Tristesse Durera (Scream to a Sigh)," which crazy-glued grunge-rock to Jet in a long-overdue experiment (I liked that one a lot more than their more popular hit "Motorcycle Emptiness," but your mileage may vary). They're officially old nowadays, so their forthcoming LP *Critical Thinking* includes a transparent attempt to dent the AOR charts, specifically with the single "Hiding in Plain Sight," a sleepy mid-tempo rocker that might have been interesting in 1967 but won't do much for anyone under 40 today, I assure you. That's not to say that traditional rock 'n' roll is dead, but bands like this should really Google the word "electronic sampling" for all our sakes.

• We'll end this week's nonsense with **Maribou State**, an English electronic music duo famous for remixing stuff from Alpines, Lana Del Rey and anyone else who'll put up with them. Their new full-length *Hallucinating Love* features the single "Bloom," a '60s-soul-tinted that's got a lot to offer in the electro-experimentation department. They'll be at the Royale in Boston on May 8. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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POP CULTURE BOOKS

Aflame, by Pico Iyer (Riverhead, 222 pages)

Pico Iyer is widely known as a travel writer, and he has traveled the globe for his books and essays, but some of his most meaningful experiences have been in a tiny room with a single bed, a chair and a desk and no distractions save an ocean view, nothing but “silence and emptiness and light.”

It is here, at a monastery in Big Sur, California, called the Hermitage, that Iyer has returned to repeatedly over the past three decades, once driving nearly four hours after his father died to sit in the stillness for two hours before driving back home again.

In *Aflame*, an unnerving title given the recent devastation in Los Angeles, Iyer writes lyrically and movingly about the gifts of solitude and quiet and why they matter, especially in a culture that seems determined to deprive us of them. And yes, he also writes about wildfires, inevitable because the setting is California, and death and suffering. But the title is a metaphor for burning in the heart, as well.

When Iyer tells one friend about his experiences at the New Camaldoli Hermitage, the friend replies, “You sound like you’re in love.” He answers, “Exalted, at the very least.”

The friend cautions him, “A love like that can’t last,” to which Iyer responds, “But it can leave you a different person, not always for the worst.”

This was an unlikely love story for Iyer, who is not a Christian or a member of any organized religious group and says he has an “aversion to all crosses and hymnals” because of having to attend chapel for 12 years in school.

But at the Hermitage he found transformative peace similar to what Admiral Richard Byrd found in the Antarctic, where the explorer made friends with stars and ice crystals, and the playwright Henry

Miller, who happily lived alone in a rude cabin with no electricity or phone for three years.

But, as Iyer writes, “The silence of a monastery is not like that of a deep forest or mountaintop; it’s active and thrumming, almost palpable.”

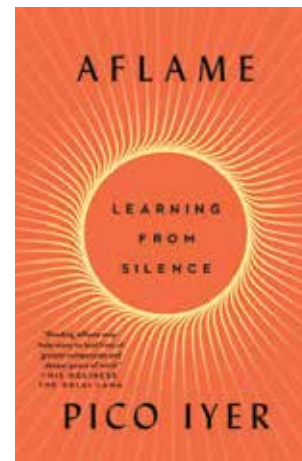
Although the website of the Big Sur hermitage is contemplation.com, the monks have work to do — when they are driven out by wildfires that threaten their home, they find similar jobs to do at the places where they evacuate.

Iyer himself is too much acquainted with fire: “I can still feel myself inside that oven, my mother’s cat panting and struggling to breathe in my lap. One minute we had been sitting in our family home, the next we were surrounded by walls of flame five stories high.”

That home was in Santa Barbara, and his mother was in Florida at the time, so Iyer had to call her to tell her that everything she owned was now ash. There are many such heartbreaking stories coming out of Los Angeles right now, but Iyer, having lived through such a fire and recovered, brings to the subject a stoic’s view: As painful as it was, the fire “did clear the way for many things,” he tells a friend. He recounts a Japanese poem:

*My house burned down
I can now see better
The rising moon*

True hermits are rare, and even those famous for time spent alone, like Henry David Thoreau, weren’t alone as people think. Even while living at Walden Pond, Thoreau visited his mother every Sunday, and “The title of his first talk at the Concord Lyceum was not ‘Solitude’ but ‘Society,’” Iyer writes. Being alone is not an end unto itself, but “the means to



becoming a more useful member of society.”

But a little aloneness doesn’t cut it. As one monk tells Iyer, “You have to learn how to enjoy leisure. ... But you can’t be leisurely for just half an hour. It’s only in the sixth half hour that things start developing inside you — and then you know you have another three hours to go.”

While not every day is bliss in stays that sometimes last for a month — there is rain, and there are rattlesnakes and occasional bouts of boredom — Iyer comes to understand that it is the learnings of silence, not the busy work of his career or any money in his bank account, that would be useful as his father came to the end of his life. Still, a friend says to him, “I can’t believe you’re spending all this time with these old guys in hoods.” But those old guys in hoods are quite the sages. Once, Iyer walks in on one working in the kitchen, who says to him, “This bloody peeling of onions, it never stops!” Iyer assumes he is talking literally, but no: “It’s the inner onion I’m talking about. The invisible stuff!”

There is, as there always is, another fire, threatening the Hermitage. And then another.

“The sacred is not a sanctuary, I’m moved to remember; it’s a force field. In many ways a forest fire. You can try controlled burns or back burnings, you can walk towards the heat, but its power comes from the fact that it can’t begin to be controlled or anticipated.”

Aflame, released the week after the Santa Ana winds blew embers across the Pacific Palisades, is beauty amid those ashes, and those yet to come. **A** —Jennifer Graham

Book Author events

- **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.
- **I.D. Marie** will sign copies of her books in her *Legends of Pangaea* series at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Jennifer Finney Boylan** presents her new book, *Cleavage: Men, Women, and the Space Between Us*, in conversation with fellow author Jodi Picoult, on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave., Concord). A signing line will follow their discussion. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite (see link at gibsonsbookstore.com). \$39 plus fees includes admission and a pre-signed copy of the book.
- **Amanda Grappone Osmer** will talk about her new book of biography and local history, *Grappone Automotive: The*

Founding, at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Virtual events

- **Victorian Psycho Literary Lunchtime** featuring Virginia Feito live from Spain in conversation with author Antonia Angress as they discuss Feito’s new horror novel, *Victorian Psycho*, via Zoom, presented by Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562) on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 1 p.m. Registration is free but required; visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

- **Japanese House in New Hampshire** presented by Paul Tuller on Friday, Feb. 7, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Jaffrey Civic Center (40 Main St., Jaffrey, 532-6527) as part of the Stories to Share series. A reception follows. Admission is free; go to jaffreyciviccenter.com/stories to reserve a seat.
- **Vanished Veterans: An Illustrated Introduction to NH’s Civil War Monuments and Memorials** presented by George Morrisson, a Bow res-

ident, on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., 485-7851). Free and open to the public.

Writer events

- **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 loebsschool.org to sign up.

A Complete Unknown (R)

Timothée Chalamet is Bob Dylan in *A Complete Unknown*, a biography of Mr. Robert Zimmerman from his 1961 arrival in New York through 1965 when he “goes electric” at the Newport Folk Festival

This is an extremely straight-down-the-middle look at Dylan as he comes to New York City, befriends an ailing Woody Guthrie (Scoot McNairy) and buddy Pete Seeger (Edward Norton), becomes a big noise in the folk music community and then itches against the fame and the expectation that he stay in a strict musical lane. Along the way he meets and has relationships with (fictional) folk music fan/artist Sylvie (Elle Fanning) and with fellow folk singer Joan Baez (Monica Barbaro) — both women who the movie doesn’t do a lot for in terms of fleshing them out and making them more than reaction shots to whatever Dylan is doing. (Baez as a character feels particularly underserved.) Bob enjoys the money and to some degree the fame but he doesn’t like the getting-chased-out-of-bars side of fame or the part where people basically just want more “Blowin’ in the Wind” from him.

There are some nice elements to this movie that has the heavy lift of “introducing” Bob Dylan even though if you are inclined to see this movie you probably have your own built-in opinions of the man and his music. We get a bunch of standard biopic-rooted-in-time stuff, like Walter Cronkite delivering the news flash that JFK has been killed and snippets of the civil rights movement. And there is a fair amount of reaction to the news of the day that feels overly earnest. But I think generally the movie’s presentation of Dylan and his role in the capital S Sixties works — before he was Mr. Nobel Prize for Literature, Bob Dylan was just a talented, ambitious, annoying 20something trying to make it in the music business and also figure out his role in the culture, which was much more “mono-” than it is now. I also like the way the movie dips into the struggle between “old” folk and the “new” folk of the 1960s and how record companies were trying to bring in the kids but also keep whatever the old audience was with covers of classic folk songs. Folk can’t just be all Dust Bowl music, Sylvie argues,

which helps inspire Dylan to write more about the Now (1960s). It’s a nice if stagey way to illustrate how today’s urgent issues become tomorrow’s nostalgia and helps to put us back there with Dylan in the 1960s headspace. At some point this tips into what basically becomes an argument about folk authenticity — “electric guitars!?!” — which is the same bummer to wade through as any argument about authenticity. And it feels like more of a stall in the movie’s energy than a lead-up to a dramatic climax. But overall I think the movie (and the Chalamet of it all) does do a good job of showing how Dylan’s lyrics and unpretty voice felt fresh for the time. **B** Available in theaters.

The Brutalist (R)

Adrian Brody gives a solid performance in *The Brutalist*, a movie with a three-hour-and-34-minute runtime.

There is a 15-minute intermission, which is either thoughtful of the movie or exhausting, depending on how you feel about what you’re watching and how much Coca-Cola Freestyle you drank in the movie’s first two-hour-ish chunk.

We meet Hungarian Lázló Tóth (Brody) as he arrives in America in 1947. Once a well-regarded architect of the Bauhaus school, Lázló survived the Holocaust with basically nothing, only finding out that his wife Erzébet (Felicity Jones) has also survived when he arrives in Philadelphia. There he meets up with long-ago-immigrated-to-America cousin Attila (Alessandro Nivola), whose last name is now Miller and who has a Catholic wife and has himself converted or something — adding a layer of tension to the relationship between the cousins. Lázló lives in a small back room at their furniture shop and is meant to help up the design game of the shop while working to get Erzébet and their niece Zsófia (Raffey Cassidy) out of what is now a Soviet-controlled country.

Lázló arrives in the U.S. with not just the psychological trauma of all he’s experienced but also a broken nose that has left him with severe pain — all of which leads him to eventually turn to heroin for relief. When we finally meet Erzébet and Zsófia, they also carry around the scars of their ordeal.



A Complete Unknown.

Erzébet’s long starvation has left her unable to walk and she uses a wheelchair when she first arrives. She also takes pills for pain in her legs that, when it strikes, leaves her screaming. Zsófia, who we first see in the movie’s opening scenes being interrogated by the Soviets and who was a child when Lázló last saw her, has been so traumatized she doesn’t speak.

And then Lázló meets rich psychopath Harrison Van Buren Sr. (Guy Pearce) and his terrible son Harry Jr. (Joe Alwyn). Harry hires Lázló and Attila to turn his father’s messy study into a proper library for his fancy first editions. What Lázló creates is such a modernist piece of art that it eventually gets a feature in Life magazine, but Van Buren’s initial reaction is just to yell at everybody and refuse to pay. Eventually Van Buren realizes that he has stumbled on a genius and ensnares Lázló into building this ridiculous community center that will serve as a monument to Van Buren’s dead mother. It is immediately clear that Van Buren is very much a not-good guy but his lawyer, Michael (Peter Polycarpou), offers to help Lázló bring over his wife and niece and Van Buren offers Lázló a chance at regaining some of his past life as an architect, so Lázló begins the project that we see become an obsession for nearly a decade.

I realize it is deeply unsophisticated to complain about a well-made movie being too long — as though you’re admitting that your baby brain has been so TikTok broken it can’t hold complex thoughts. And, maybe, but also at some point the tonnage of a mov-

ie gets in the way of all the things a movie can accomplish. And *The Brutalist* — which really feels at least 40 minutes not just too long but too long without good reason — does attempt some interesting things. The production design and cinematography (both of which received Oscar nominations in this 10-nomination-receiving movie, including for Best Picture) are excellent, really putting the emotion on screen via colors and shapes and the way stone and shadow play such a big role in what we’re watching.

There is also a narrative that we’re used to in this kind of movie — where the refugee from the horrors of World War II comes to America and then just buckles down on the making of a new life and more or less assimilates — that this movie brilliantly argues with. In *The Brutalist* Lázló suffers in a way that feels more messy and genuine, can’t just close the door on the past and, as we eventually learn, works out some of his suffering through his architecture. And no amount of American hustle changes the fact that he was once a big deal with a full life of his own and is now at the mercy of the increasing awfulness of the racist, classist Van Buren to claw a little bit of that back. Likewise, Erzébet was a professional woman with a career as a foreign correspondent and isn’t here for everything’s-great-now housewife. Strong performances all around (even to a degree from Jones, I guess, saddled with another thin and thankless wife role) help break these people out of what you expect of them and give you something horrific but real. **B** In theaters. 🍷

Film

• *Babygirl* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, Jan. 30, 4:30 & 7 p.m.
• *Mulholland Drive* (R, 2001) will screen Thursday, Jan. 30, at 6:30 p.m. at Red River Theaters in Concord, redrivertheatres.org.
• *A Complete Unknown* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters

in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 3:30 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 31, through Sunday, Feb. 2, at 12:45, 3:45 and 6:45 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 3, through Thursday, Feb. 6, at 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.
• *The Brutalist* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, Thursday, Jan. 30, at 1:45 & 6

p.m.; Friday, Jan. 31, through Thursday, Feb. 6, from 1:45 to 6 p.m.
• *The Seed of the Sacred Fig* (PG-13, 2024) will screen at Red River Theaters in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, Friday, Jan. 31, through Sunday, Feb. 2, at 12:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 3, through Thursday, Feb. 6, at 3:45 & 7 p.m.
• *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. See fathomevents.com.
• *Happy Feet* (PG, 2006) will screen at Chunky’s in Manchester, chunkys.com, on Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 11:30 a.m. as part of the Little Lunch Date Series.
• *The Strong Man* (1926), a silent film starring Harry Langdon and

directed by Frank Capra, will screen with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre in Wilton.
• *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* (PG, 2001) will screen via Fathom on Thursday, Feb. 13, and Thursday, Feb. 20, at Apple Cinemas in Merrimack and Hooksett (at 7 p.m.); Cinemark Rockingham

Park in Salem (3 p.m. plus at 6:30 p.m. in 3D) and Regal Fox Run in Newington (at 1 p.m. and at 6 p.m. in 3D). See fathomevents.com.
• *GoldenEye* (PG-13, 1995) will screen at Chunky’s in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. as part of a five-course Farmers Dinner with Chef Keith Sarasin. Dinner costs \$75; \$110 with wine pairing.

NITE

Stones' fab four

Paying tribute to a hot streak of albums

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com



Rolling Stones, 1969 (Courtesy Photo).

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

- **New Yorkers:** Nosaj and Haight Keech's new duo **Wave Generators** hit town in support of their latest LP, *After the End*. Released last year, the 11-track effort has elements of the rap rock that fueled New Kingdom, Nosaj's former group, with the growling "New North" harkening back to '90s era Iggy Pop. Also appearing are area favorites Cody Pope and Byron G., along with Nahreally. Thursday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., Zo's Place, 235 Main St., Nashua, wavegenerators.bandcamp.com.
- **Family sound:** Offering gorgeous close harmonies and delicate instrumentation, **Golden Oak** is fronted by the sibling duo of Zak and Lena Kendall. One writer described the mood of their unique music as "energetic intimacy." Their most recent album, *Room to Grow*, explores the physical and spiritual effects of the climate crisis. Liz Simmons, known for her work with trio Low Lily, opens the show. Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$31 at ccanh.com.
- **Just ducky:** After enough customers told her she was the best thing about Boston's Duck Boat Tours, **Jody Sloane** went from delivering sit-down jokes while driving an amphibious vehicle to standup comedy. A regular favorite at the Doubletree Hotel showcase room, she'll headline a weekend show. Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., Headliners Comedy Club, 700 Elm St., Manchester, \$20 at eventbrite.com
- **New romantic:** Enjoy a Sunday afternoon sans football with highbrow melodies from **Anthony Nunziata**. In his *Bocelli and Beyond* show, the singer mixes operatic gems such as "O Sole Mio" and "Ave Maria" with pop hits like "When I Fall In Love" and originals one critic wrote have the "songwriting passion of a young Billy Joel combined with the soulfulness of Ed Sheeran." Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$39 and up at palacetheatre.org.
- **Helping hands:** The *Woodman Winter Warm-Up* event has music from **Gnarly Darling**, a rootsy band playing originals and covers of bands like Wilco, Black Pumas and John Prine. There will be drinks, food and a raffle with custom guitars from Miranda Lambert and Luke Bryan, all to benefit the Woodman Museum's mission "to advance and develop passion for history, nature, and the arts." Tuesday, Feb. 4, 5 p.m., Chapel + Main, 83 Main St., Dover, \$75 at simpletix.com.

Beginning with *Beggars Banquet* in 1968, the Rolling Stones made four records in a row that are all among the greatest to come from the classic rock era — and the last one, 1972's *Exile on Main Street*, was a double album. The other two were, of course, 1969's *Let It Bleed* and *Sticky Fingers*, released in 1971.

Here's the thing, though. It was an iconic streak, but the band's true achievement was surviving it. Most of them, anyway; co-founder Brian Jones barely made it through the first two LPs before his death. Arrests, bad business deals, a disastrous free concert and a midnight run from England to France all happened, while the music just got better.

A show on Feb. 1 at Pembroke City Limits will feature four songs from each album, along with a look at the times that produced them. A house band led by John Zevos of Lichen will recreate "Sympathy for the Devil," "Midnight Rambler," "Dead Flowers," "Tumbling Dice" and a dozen others.

"I was peeling through some of the Stones' essential works of the late '60s and '70s and I just could not get past these four records," PCL owner Rob Azevedo, who organized the show, said recently. "Mick's potent lyrics, Keith's blazing riffs and the magnitude of these incredible creations.... I thought, we need to pay tribute to these songs, and soon!"

Hosting and providing historical context for the event will be me, Michael Witthaus. I watched a lot of it unfold as a teenager in Northern California, like the horrific Altamont show that summarily ended the '60s idealism once rising at Woodstock. When the Stones returned to San Francisco in 1972 and played Winterland, I was there.

Since then, I've learned a lot more from books and podcasts about the decade's music. I'll talk about living in that era, and tell stories about the Greatest Rock & Roll Band in the World, like the one about how the organ player on Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone" later joined The Stones and

helped shape the opening bars of "You Can't Always Get What You Want."

A seasoned group of Stones-loving musicians is promised, which will include a horn section for a few songs consisting of sax players Brian Booth, Dani Sven and Jason Reichelson, along with John Spring on trumpet. Zevos wrote the horn charts, something he's done for Azevedo-organized tribute shows in the past. The band, he said in an email interview, consists of "people I've played with a lot over the years that I knew would be great playing Stones tunes."

On keyboards and singing is his wife Diane Zevos. She's also a member of Lichen, a band nearly as durable as the Stones, having marked 43 years together last August. "Di loves rock 'n' roll, and adds so much to any band she plays in," Zevos said. "We love playing together."

Playing guitar and vocals is Wayne Hughes, a longtime collaborator of Zevos'. "We play together all the time in various situations, and he knows more about the Stones than anyone I know," he explained. "As soon as Rob asked me to do this I said to myself, 'I have to get

Wayne,' and he was eager to jump in.

Steve Forgione, though best known for his guitar work in local band Who Knows What, will move to drums for the show. "He grew up drumming in drum corps, and he is also a fantastic drummer,"

Zevos said, adding, "Steve knows this material really well and I think because he is a guitar player he is a very musical drummer."

On bass and vocals is a newer friend of Zevos, Peter Borden. "I met Peter while playing with him in another band and we found that

we have the same taste in music," he said. "Even more than that, we hit it off musically. When I found out he was into the Stones, he seemed like the logical choice, and it is working out really well."

Zevos will handle the "Keef" parts on guitar. "A lot of them are in the open tunings that Keith Richards uses," he said. "You can play all of the songs in standard tuning, but to get the same sound as Keith, on some songs you need to use the tunings. I like it, it's really fun. I'll need to bring four guitars." 🎸

“Mick's potent lyrics, Keith's blazing riffs and the magnitude of these incredible creations.... we need to pay tribute to these songs...”

ROB AZEVEDO

Rolling Stones Tribute Show

When: Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m.
Where: Pembroke City Limits, 134 Main St., Suncook
More: pembrokecitylimits.com

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay 224-5669 Dover Road, 736-0027
Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234

Auburn
Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

Barrington
Nippo Lake Restaurant 88 Stagecoach Road, nippobluegrass.com

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.,

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

Dover
Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240

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

Chapel + Main 83 Main St., 842-5170

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

Epsom
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724

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., 663-7678

Bookery 844 Elm St., 836-6600

Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

Derry Road, 943-7832

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

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

Hop Knot 100 Elm St., 232-3731

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

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

Olympus Pizza 506 Valley St., 644-5559

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

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

Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246

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

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

Strange Brew 88 Market St., 666-4292

To Share Brewing 720

Union St., 836-6947

Meredith
Giuseppe's 312 DW Highway, 279-3313

Twin Barns Brewing 194 DW Highway, 279-0876

Merrimack
Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022

Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479

Milford
Brickhouse 241 Union Sq., 672-2270

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 Clinton 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

New London
Flying Goose 40 Andover Road, 526-6899

Newmarket
Stone Church 5 Granite St., 659-7700

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

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

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

Thirsty Moose Tap-

house 21 Congress St., 427-8645

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

Salem
Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

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

Tilton
Dox on Winnisquam 927 Laconia Road, 527-8381

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

Thursday, Jan. 30

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

Bedford
Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.

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

Concord
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.

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

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Fizzpaste, Shoulder, Supernaut, 8 p.m.

Epping
Telly's: 21st & 1st, 7 p.m.

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

Hampton
CR's: Greg DeCoteau, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Jamie Hughes, 7 p.m.

Manchester
Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.

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

Merrimack
Homestead: Joe Winslow, 5:30 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Kat Ivy, 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.

New London
Flying Goose: Dinty Child and Mark Erelli, 7:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Not Fade Away Band, 8 p.m.

Northwood
Northwoods Brewing: Alexia Montesano, 6 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Gary's legendary musical gatherings, 7 p.m.

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

Portsmouth
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.
Press Room: Hello Shark, Dutch Puppi, Dummy Ache, 7 p.m.

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

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.
Red's: Casey Roop, 7 p.m.



MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED

He's a high-energy comedian whose sharp observational humor has won him a loyal audience throughout New England. He's appeared as a pitchman for Curry Hardware and found a fan base through his hockey podcast *Chirping Zebras*. He's taken down hecklers with his quick wit and disarming stage presence. Is it any wonder that **Mark Riley** has become one of the most-booked comedians in New England? Don't miss his upcoming show at Chunky's (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

Somersworth

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

Tilton

Dox: Chad Verbeck, 6 p.m.

Warner

The Local: Ciera MacKenzie, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 31

Alton Bay

Foster's Tavern: Jack Ancora, 6 p.m.

Bedford

Murphy's: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Concord

The Forum Pub: Angel & Brian, 8 p.m.

Hermanos: The Coterie, 6:30 p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Black Hatch, Parachute Club, Cellardoor, 8 p.m.
Chapel + Main: Disco Sucks all-vinyl DJ night w/ Zach Tremblay, 7:30 p.m.
Revo Casino: Rock Junkies, 8 p.m.

Epping

Telly's: Tim Theriault, 8 p.m.

Gilford

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

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Jennifer Mitch-

ell, 6 p.m.

Hampton

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

The Goat: Mike Jetti, 8 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Wally's: Rigometrics, 9 p.m.

Whym: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: 2 Drink Minimum, 7 p.m.

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

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Dueling pianos, 8 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Bob Pratte, 7 p.m.

Defiant Records: Mike Loughlin, 6 p.m.

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

Litchfield

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

Londonderry

Coach Stop: John Chouinard, 6 p.m.

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

Stumble Inn: White Noise Band, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Taylor Hughes, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: Chase Clark, 7 p.m.

Derryfield: Off The Record, 8:30

p.m.

The Foundry: Ian Archibold, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Kat Ivy, 6 p.m.

The Goat: run4Covers, 9 p.m.

Keys: Dueling Pianos, 7:30 p.m.

Murphy's: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Shaskeen: Screamo Night, American Ghost, 8 p.m.

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

Strange Brew: The Whole Loaf, 9 p.m.

To Share: Ben Harris, 6:30 p.m.

Meredith

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

Twin Barns: Freddie Catalfo, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Dalton Sayball, 6 p.m.

Milford

Brickhouse: Bush League, 8 p.m.

Mi Jalisco: Travis Rollo, 6:30 p.m.

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: Lewis Goodwin, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Parietal Eye, Tumbletoads, Born Fools, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: The Hickory Horned Devils, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

Over the Moon: Gary Smith, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Chad Verbeck, 9:30 p.m.

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Press Room: High Range, 6 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: DJ Milzy, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.

Sayde's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Saturday, Feb. 1

Alton Bay

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

Bedford

Murphy's: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Taylor Hughes, 7 p.m.

Campton

Mad River Coffee House: Dakota Smart, 3 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend Brewing: live music, 6 p.m.

The Forum Pub: acoustic circle, 2 p.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Justin Cohn, 1 p.m.

Contoocook Farmers Market: Will Hatch, 9 a.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Burn Kit, Snake Lips, Honey Wave, 8 p.m.

Epping

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

Hampton

The Goat: James Stark, 9 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Wally's: Apres Ski Party, 8 p.m.

Whym: Clint lapointe, 6 p.m.

Henniker

Henniker Brewing: Paul Cascio of Friday's Alibi, 3 p.m.

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

Kingston

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

Laconia

405 Pub and Grill: Bobby Freedom, 7 p.m.

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

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: Small Town Stranded, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Rebecca Turmel, 6 p.m.

Bonfire: The Mockingbirds, 7 p.m.

Derryfield: Last Kid Picked, 8:30 p.m.

Foundry: Danny McCarthy, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Lou Antonucci, 6 p.m.

The Goat: Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.

Great North Aleworks: Paul Nelson, 4 p.m.

The Hill: Ralph Allen 5:30 p.m.

Keys: Dueling Pianos, 7:30 p.m.

Murphy's: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.

Shaskeen: Cytokine, Graveborn, & Ratblood, 8 p.m.

Strange Brew: Peter Poirier, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: LU NH music, 5:45 p.m.

Twin Barns: Karen Grenier, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Sam Hammerman, 6 p.m.

Milford

Brickhouse: Code Switch Band,

8 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: Two Drink Minimum Duo, 8 p.m.

Newbury

Goosefeathers Pub: Tom Boisse, 3 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Rock & Roll Jam-boree, 3 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Rolling Stones tribute show, 2 p.m.; Liam Spain and Friends, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

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

Portsmouth

Gas Light: Dave Zangri, 9:30 p.m.

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Press Room: The Edd w/ The Hot Chocheys, 8 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: Holly Heist, 9:30 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Phil Jacques, 7 p.m.

Par28: Dj Styles, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Kitchen Party, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 2

Barrington

Nippo Lake Restaurant: New England Bluegrass Band, 6 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Phil Jacques, 11 a.m.

Contoocook

Contoocook Cider Co.: Justin Cohn, 1 p.m.

Dover

Chapel + Main: Sunday Bluegrass Series, noon

Hampton

The Goat: Masta Killa of

ECLECTIC FOLK

Ryan Montbleau isn't just another guy with an acoustic guitar. The New England native has honed an expansive style of folk music with eclectic musical instruments, collaborated with Tall Heights and Hayley Jane and opened for artists like Ani DiFranco, Martin Sexton and Rodrigo Y Gabriela. He stops by the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$39 plus fees.



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NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Wu-Tang Clan, 8 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Laconia

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

Manchester

The Goat: Mike Jetty, 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

Goosefeathers Pub: Willy Chase, 2 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: open mic w/ Dave Ogden, 7 p.m.

Pittsfield

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

Portsmouth

Press Room: Jazz Brunch w/ Johanna Landis, noon

Salem

Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 3

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: Justin Jordan, 5:30 p.m.

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

Keys: Blues Band & open jam, 7 p.m.

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

Meredith

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

Nashua

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

Portsmouth

The Goat: music bingo, 9 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 4

Concord

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Chris Lester, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Jordan Quinn, 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, Feb. 5

Concord

Barley House: music bingo, 6 p.m.
The Forum: karaoke w/ Anastasia, 8 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Jack Ancora, 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

Luk's: music bingo, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: music bingo, 7 p.m.

Kingston

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

Laconia

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

Manchester

Fratello's: Joanie Cicutelli, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Hop Knot: open mic night, 8 p.m.
Keys Piano Bar: Johnny Friday, 8 p.m.
Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: open mic w/ Jordan Quinn & Scott Armstrong, 8 p.m.

Meredith

Giuseppe's: Don Bergeron, 5:45 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Clint Lapointe, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

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

Newmarket


Stone Church: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Cup of Joe: open mic hosted by Ellie, 7 p.m.
Press Room: Meir Levine w/ Carol Coronis, 7 p.m.


Seabrook

Red's: Jonny Friday, 7 p.m.



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COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

• Wednesday Ruby Room at the Shaskeen, Manchester, 9 p.m.
• Thursdays Laugh Attic at Strange Brew, Manchester, strangebrewtavern.net 8:30 p.m.

Events

• Ismo Music Hall Lounge, Portsmouth, themusichall.org, Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.

• Steve Sweeney Brickhouse, Milford, Thursday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m.
• Eric Dittelman Park Theatre, Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org, Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m.
• America's Got Comedy Flying Monkey, Plymouth, flyingmonkeynh.com, Saturday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.
• Jody Sloane Headliners, Manchester, headlinersnh.com, Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m.

• Mark Riley Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m.
• James Dorsey McCue's, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com, Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m.
• Steve Sweeney Zorvino Vineyards, Sandown, zorvino.com, Friday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m.
• Jim Norton Colonial, Laconia, coloniallaconia.com Friday, Feb. 7, 8 p.m.

PUBLIC AUCTION

1st Priority Auto & Towing, LLC will be auctioning for non-payment, impounded/abandoned vehicles per NH Law RSA 262 Sec. 36-40. To be liquidated:

- 2015 Jeep Cherokee 1C4RJFGB7FC183258
- 2010 Dodge Charger 2B3CK3CV7AH202686
- 2007 Toyota Corolla 2T1BR30E97C822646
- 2012 Chevy Cruz 1G1PG55C9C7282903
- 2012 VW Tiguan WVGBV7AX9CW592736
- 2003 Toyota Tundra 5TBBT44133S366474
- 2007 Toyota 4 Runner JTEBU14R870113423
- 2019 Ford Flex 2FMGK5D89KBA03269
- 2014 Chevy Spark KL8CB6S97EC422612
- 2005 Lincoln Town Car
1LNHM81W65Y601958
- 2005 Chevy 3500 Van 1GCHG35U351196061
- 2023 Honda CRV 3CZRZ2H32PM721901

Vehicles will be sold at Public Auction
February 7, 2025 at 10:00 AM
at 26 Mason St., Nashua NH.

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NITE MUSIC & EVENTS

Trivia

Trivia events

• **General Knowledge trivia** Thursday, Jan. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com).

Weekend trivia

• **Thursday** trivia with ABC Trivia at Oddball Brewing (6 Glass St., Suncook, 210-5654, oddball-brewingnh.com) at 6 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Lithermans (126 Hall St., Concord, lithermans.beer) at 6 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Henniker Brewing (129 Centerville Road, Henniker,

hennikerbrewing.com) 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, the-barleyhouse.com) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at The Derryfield (625

Mammoth Road, Manchester, thederryfield.com) 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Hart's Turkey Farm (223 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) 7
 • **Thursday** Opinionation by Sporcle trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road, Concord; 226-8667) at 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Chantilly's Restaurant (1112 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, find them on Facebook) 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 with Raise the Bar at The Big Bean (163 Water St., Exeter, thebigbeancafe.com) 7 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) at 7:30 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
 • **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.
 • **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.

• **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
 • **Friday** trivia at Biergarten Anheuser-Busch (221 DW Highway, Merrimack) from 6 to 8 p.m.
 • **Friday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Cheers (17 Depot Square, Concord, cheersnh.com) 8 p.m.
 • **Sunday** trivia at Mountain Base Brewery (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 315-8382) at 4 p.m.

Concerts

• **New England Winter Blues Festival with Rick Estrin, Jerry Portnoy, Jason Ricci, "Sugar Ray" Norcia, Nick "Mr. Nick" David, with the Wicked Lo-Down** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Rex, Manchester, paalce theatre.org
 • **Gary's Legendary Musical Gathering** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits, pembrokecitylimits.com
 • **Genticorum** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Word Barn, Exeter, thewordbarn.com
 • **Matt Pond PA/Anya Marina/Bathtub Cig** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., 3S Artspace, Portsmouth, 3sarts.org
 • **The Press Room Presents The Press Room** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
 • **Ace Frehley** Thursday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusichall.com
 • **Dinty Child/Mark Erelli** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose, New London, flyinggoose.com
 • **Adam Pascal & Anthony Rapp** Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall, Portsmouth, themusichall.org
 • **Not Fade Away Band** (Grateful Dead tribute) Thursday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m., Stone Church, Newmarket, stonechurchrocks.com
 • **High Range** Friday, Jan. 31, 6 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
 • **Hickory Horned Devils** Friday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits, pembrokecitylimits.com
 • **Ryan Montbleau** Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
 • **Greg Spero** Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's, Ports-

mouth, jimmysoncongress.com
 • **Country Jamboree** Friday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Lakeport Opera House, Laconia, lakeportopera.com
 • **Captain Fantastic** (Elton John tribute) Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusichall.org
 • **Michael Jackson: HIStory** Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts, nashuacenterforthearts.com
 • **GoldenOak** Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., BNH Stage, Concord, ccanh.com
 • **Parietal Eye/Tumbletoads/Born Fools** Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m., Stone Church, newmarket, stonechurchrocks.com
 • **Recycled Percussion** Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 2, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts, nashuacenterforthearts.com
 • **Let's Get Sticky** (Rolling Stones Tribute) Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m., Pembroke City Limits, pembrokecitylimits.com
 • **Tom Boisse** Saturday, Feb. 1, 3 p.m., Goosefeathers, Newbury
 • **Being Petty** (Tom Petty tribute) Saturday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., BNH Stage, Concord, ccanh.com
 • **Divas with a Twist** Saturday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
 • **Boogie Wonder Band** Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusichall.com
 • **The Edds/The Hot Chocheys** Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
 • **The Orrs/Twothousands** Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., Button Factory Stage, Portsmouth, buttonfactorystudios.com
 • **David Newsam Trio** Sun-

day, Feb. 2, 10 a.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
 • **Anthony Nunziata** Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
 • **Dartmouth Aires** Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m., Concord City Auditorium, theaudi.org
 • **Willy Chase** Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 p.m., Goosefeathers, Newbury
 • **Dylan Metrano & Guy Capecelatro III** Sun-

day, Feb. 2, 4 p.m., Stone Church, Newmarket, stonechurchrocks.com
 • **MUT4L** Sunday, Feb. 2, 6 p.m., Cantin Room at the BNH Stage, Concord, ccanh.com
 • **Jacky Terrasson Trio** Sunday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
 • **Organically Good** Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com

• **The Silver Stars** Wednesday, Feb. 5, and Thursday, Feb. 6, 6 p.m., Rex, Manchester, palacetheatre.org
 • **Meir Levine/Carol Coronis** Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Press Room, Portsmouth, pressroomnh.com
 • **Blind Boys of Alabama** Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's, Portsmouth, jimmysoncongress.com
 • **Marty Friedman** Thursday, Feb. 6, 8 p.m., Tupelo, Derry, tupelomusichall.com



COMEDY FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

Fans of *America's Got Talent* will want to pay a visit to the Flying Monkey (39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com) this week. Semifinalists **Tom Cotter** — who lost to a dog in Season 7 — and **Dan Naturman** join Granite State favorite **Eric Dittelman** for a showcase of the funniest comedians from the reality show's 19-season run. The laughs start at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1, and tickets range from \$40 to \$75, plus fees.

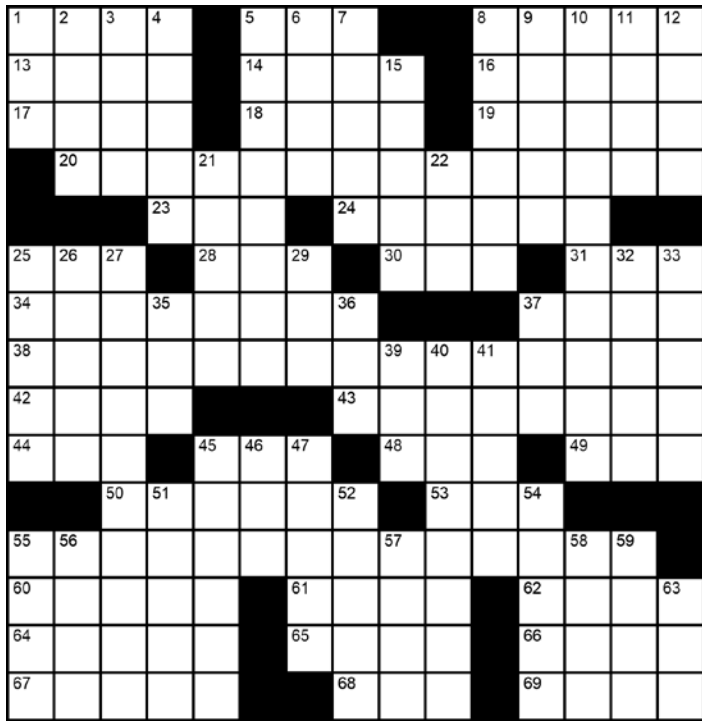
◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 6

catures, who is a woman from Boston who does caricatures. ... We'll have Hallowed Harvest Oddities, which is someone down in Connecticut... and they do bug pinning and taxidermy and that kind of wet specimens stuff ... Then we have a couple local artists like Ghost Ship Art and Emily V. Arts. We'll also have Karen Jerzyk, She'll be there selling prints of her photography. It'll be a lot of Manchester-based people because obviously that's also the point. We have Evol-Eye Co. ... and they do clothing, pins, beanies, stuff like that and it's traditional tattoo streetwear-type designs but it's all cen-

tered around mental health awareness and recovery. There'll be a whole lot of fun people and weird stuff. We also have Crown Street Grillz. She's based in Nashua and she does teeth grills, like the gold teeth and silver teeth. She does all kinds of funky designs with it, which is pretty uncommon around here. So she'll be in person fitting people and making those, which would be fun and different. That's just the five that I thought of off the top of my head.

—Zachary Lewis 🐼

“Zero Stars!”—that’s my rating.



- Across**
- “Le Freak” disco group
 - “No ___!” (“I’ve had enough,” in Spanish)
 - New Testament king/villain
 - Kind of exhaust
 - Japanese sashes
 - South American masa dish that’s doughy when undercooked
 - “Mad Men” award
 - Taverna liqueur that tastes like anise
 - Utensil with small holes
 - Words chosen to be ignored, maybe
 - Manufacturer of bar code scanners and ATMs
 - Large blob
 - Negative decisions
 - Reminder of a debt
 - Monarch in Spain, but not the U.S.
 - Scummy pair?
 - Latin Grammy-nominated Mexican musician ___ Paz
 - Mango ___ bowl
 - Like those who don’t get called back
 - 2006-07 NBA MVP Nowitzki
 - Cross
 - Mo. for National Moldy Cheese Day
 - Vainglorious one
 - “___ with caution”
 - Agcy. created by Bush
 - “Toxic” singer Britney
 - Acquired
 - “Thanks for being thoughtful”
 - “Love Boat” guest who once said “Many people think I am an idiot. I

- think I am a genius”
- He’ll feed you a line
 - “___ of Confusion” (Genesis hit)
 - “Charade” director Stanley
 - Tabloid nickname of the “Y’all Ain’t Ready” rapper once married to 50-Across
 - Birth state of seven presidents
 - Mudville’s “mighty” failure at the plate
 - Radio bands with more music

than talk
69. Totally insane, like some choices or opinions

- Down**
- Agency founded to help fight malaria, for short
 - Streaming service with “This Fool” and “Tell Me Lies”
 - Comedian and “Love Island” narrator Stirling
 - Bozo, e.g.
 - Clear choice for car enthusiasts?
 - Lie alongside
 - Word with bite or king
 - Barely at all
 - “Wicked” star Cynthia
 - Instructions in a box in the kitchen
 - Libya and Kuwait’s oil org.
 - Truth alternative
 - Island home of Thomas the Tank Engine
 - Allowing no returns, in tennis
 - Pumpkin ___ (fall beverage)
 - Fresh hairstyle
 - Corrupt, sycophantic courtier in “Hamlet”
 - Makeup of questionable attendance records, maybe
 - Aduba who played Shirley Chisholm in “Mrs. America”
 - Low-lying wetland
 - Building plots
 - Expensive printer fluid
 - Sometimes it’s a bust
 - “Damned dirty” creature of film

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

- Find and Circle...**
- Six four-letter colors □□□□
 - Three countries starting with P □□
 - Three Apollo 11 astronauts □□□
 - Three flowing bodies of water □□□
 - ___ Civic □

Last Week’s Answers: SCORPION SPIDER MITE TICK / NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE / PERIOD COLON COMMA / NIECE UNCLE / HEADS TAILS

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12/9

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

- “Adam Ruins Everything” network ___ TV
 - Argues (with)
 - “___ Destruction” (1991 film)
 - More than a misdemeanor
 - Wine barrel wood
 - Puncture from a thorn
 - Gravylike soup
 - Extinguish, with “out”
 - Windbreaker material
 - “Jailbreak” and “Highway to Hell” band
 - “Stop doing that!”
 - Judge
 - The only U.S. location that will ever have a royal palace
 - Minute, hand, or rod, e.g.
 - El jefe’s #2
- © 2025 Matt Jones

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

6×	3+		7+
	7+	1	
5+		1-	2÷
	2		

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CHALLENGING

11+		12×		2÷	
4	1-		5-	3÷	3-
60×		6			
	5-		3-	11+	1-
2÷	2	20×			
			7+		6

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RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- 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.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

2÷	2-		
4	2	1	3
1-	12×		3-
2	4	3	1
	3+		
3	1	2	4
4+		2÷	
1	3	4	2

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Be Ready When the Luck Happens*, by Ina Garten, born Feb. 2, 1948.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) I saved the more complicated recipes for weekends, when I had more time. Each one was an adventure.... Adventure time.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) More important, I realized that I hadn't been wasting my time when I worked at jobs that were so unsatisfying. I was simply doing research, and now I just needed to decide my path forward. Research!

Aries (March 21 – April 19) As I said, when I'm starting on a recipe, I need to have a strong sense of where I'm going, or I never actually finish working on the recipe. Pick a direction.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) My goal in finding the right flavor is to make the dish taste as good as it can taste with as few ingredients as possible. Every ingredient has to earn its place in the recipe. Celery, explain yourself.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) The first thing I did was put together a book proposal, thinking no one would ever see it. But I threw myself into the project because that's what I do Make it good.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) One day, I was running a store with fifty employees and sometimes baking a thousand baguettes, and the next day, I literally had nothing to do. Not even one baguette.

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) I'm like an orchestra conductor trying to get the carrots and turnips to do what they're supposed to do. Do they even know?

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) How can I make chick-

en more 'chicken-y' or chocolate more 'chocolate-y'? Bring out their best.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) With one book behind me, I was more experienced, but I'm always looking for ways to make something better. Because why not?

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) Who knew that you needed a website? This was 1996, and looking back, I'm proud (and a little surprised) that I was an early adopter! Who knew!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) I wanted to spend all my time working, learning, and making the store better. Good use of time.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) If I could afford it, great! If I couldn't afford it, that was okay too. ... I'd rather just wait until I could afford a good one. Gives you something to work on. 🍷

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 love (9)	_____
2 love (11)	_____
3 love (7)	_____
4 love (8)	_____
5 love (9)	_____
6 love (9)	_____
7 love (5)	_____

SS	ADU	ION	ARD	OUS
NESS	FOND	FE	AF	ON
ATI	AMOR	CTI	ADOR	ION
OR	ON	NESS	PA	LAT

Last Week's Answers: 1. YACHT 2. KILOWATT 3. APRICOT 4. NAUGHT 5. LANCELOT 6. SCOTT 7. SNAPSHOT

Sudoku Answers from pg 31 of 1/23

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 1/6

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★ 1/7

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 1/9



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Animal Antics

A Starbucks employee in Mobile, Alabama, had to have stitches and rabies vaccinations on Jan. 10 after a pet Aotus monkey jumped out of a car at the drive-thru window and into the restaurant, according to Lagniappe. The monkey ran up the employee's arm to her head and started biting her until a co-worker grabbed it and threw it back out of the window. Mobile Police Department public information officer Blake Brown said the monkey's owner drove away from the restaurant before police arrived. The wounded employee said the owner, who had another monkey in the car, later returned to the restaurant to check on her but wouldn't give her name. "The owner of the animal could face charges," Brown said. The Starbucks location has banned the owner and her monkeys from the drive-thru. "She's welcome to come inside if she leaves them in the car," the employee said. *Lagniappe, Jan. 17*

Questionable Judgment

A housekeeping crew on a P&O Cruises Australia ship took passengers by surprise in December when they paraded by the ship's swimming pool wearing their all-white uniforms with pointy white hoods, News.com reported on Jan. 22. The eight crew were

dressed as upside-down snow cones, but passengers were horrified and were quick to document the incident on social media. "We were like, 'are we seeing this correctly,' it was so bizarre," said one cruiser from Melbourne. Lynne Scrivens, communications director for the cruise line, said the housekeeping crew are from all over the world and had never heard of the Ku Klux Klan. "They are limited with what resources they have on ships," she said, explaining that they make do with what they can find for costumes. P&O Cruises Australia issued an apology following the event: "The crew members were horrified." *News.com, Jan. 22*

Recent Alarming Headline

A plastic surgeon in Taipei City, Taiwan, is being called the "bravest man in Taiwan" after he shared on social media that he had performed his own vasectomy, Oddity Central reported. Chen Wei-nong recorded the surgery for educational purposes and presented the 11 steps necessary to complete the procedure. "It was a strange feeling to touch and suture my own urethra," he wrote. He reassured followers that the surgery was performed outside of work hours and under the supervision of a urologist, and while he experienced some discomfort following the vasectomy, he felt fine the next day. *Oddity Central, Jan. 17*

Frequent Flyer

On Jan. 13, the 8-year-old cat Mittens was booked on a one-way flight from Christchurch, New Zealand, to Melbourne, Australia, Sky News reported. But in Melbourne, Mittens was never unloaded from the baggage compartment. Instead, three hours later, the airline revealed that Mittens had flown back to New Zealand — about 7.5 hours in the air. Owner Margo Neas was told a wheelchair in the cargo area had obscured Mittens' cage from the baggage handler's view. "It was not a great start to our new life in Melbourne because we didn't have the family, we weren't complete," said Neas. After arriving back in Christchurch, Mittens was loaded onto another flight to Melbourne, where she was reunited with her family. *Sky News, Jan. 22*

Awwwww!

A sunfish at the Kaikyokan Aquarium in Shimonoseki, Japan, has a new lease on life — or at least, new "friends" to share it with. The New York Post reported that the sunfish, who is the sole occupant of its tank, became depressed and stopped eating after the aquarium closed for renovations in December. "One of the staff members said, 'Maybe it's lonely because it misses the visitors,'" said an aquarium worker. "We attached uni-

forms of the staff members to the tank with a little bit of hope. Then, the next day, it was in good health again!" Workers say the sunfish tracks the uniforms and face cutouts with its eyes as it swims by, and those still in the building wave to it every time they pass the tank. *NY Post, Jan. 20*

News You Can Use

A23a, an enormous iceberg that broke away from Antarctica almost 40 years ago, has been spinning around the Antarctic Ocean for a year, caught in a vortex, the Mirror reported. But now it's on the move again, headed roughly toward South Georgia, a British-owned island that is largely uninhabited. A23a, at more than 1,200 feet thick and 1,400 square miles, can be seen from space. Sea captain Simon Wallace, stationed on the Pharos vessel in South Georgia, told the BBC: "Icebergs are inherently dangerous. I would be extraordinarily happy if it just completely missed us." A collision could threaten wildlife on the island, including penguins, seals and sea birds. The iceberg's fate depends on currents and whether it gets "stuck" on the continental shelf around the island.

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

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