

# the Hippo

FEBRUARY 20 - 26, 2025

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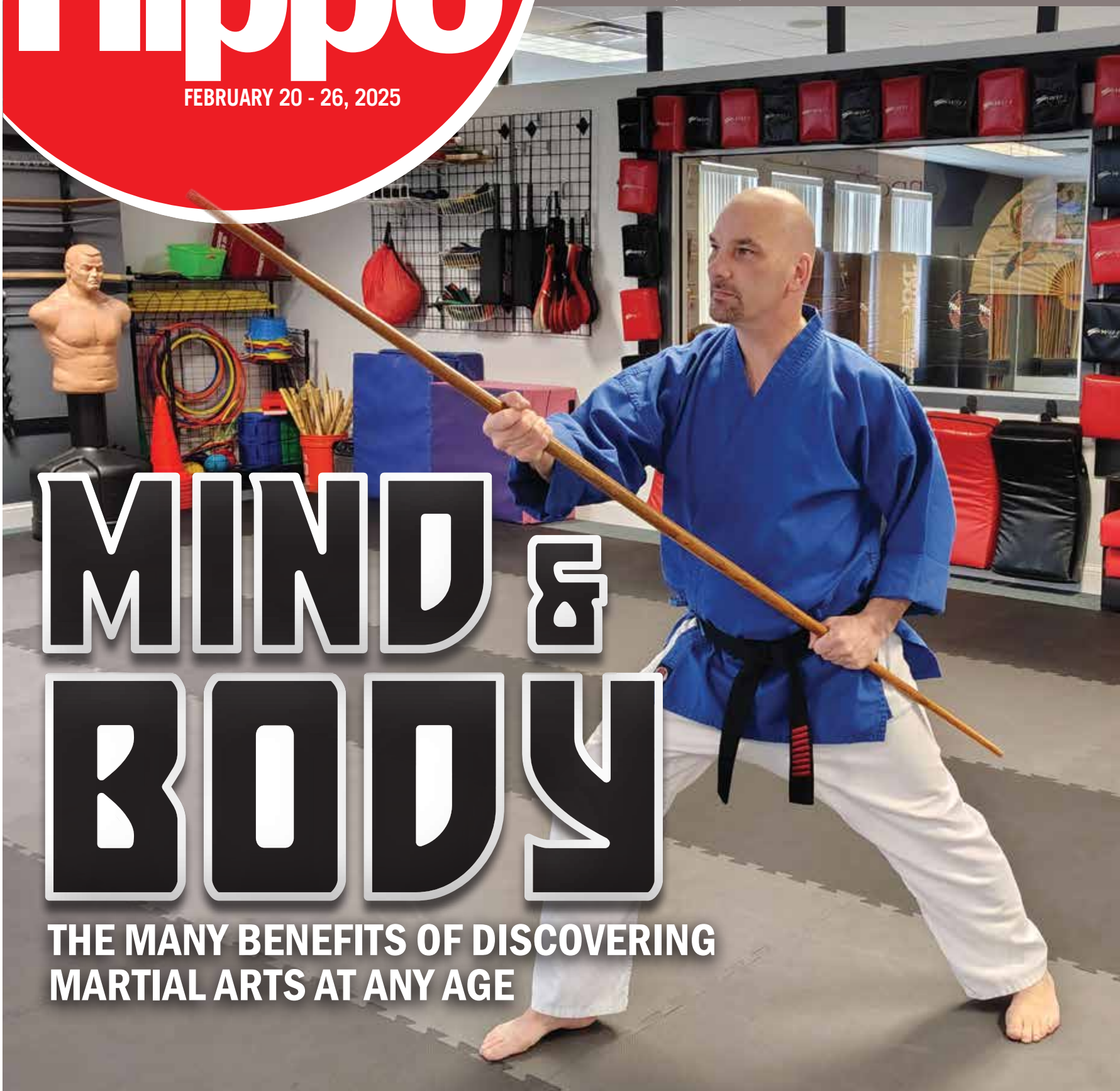
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**ON THE COVER**

10 Karate lessons (and other forms of martial arts) aren't just for kids. John Fladd looks at picking up martial arts at any age and what the benefits might be. Photo at right and on the cover: Lenny Demers of Kenpo Academy of Self Defense in Londonderry (courtesy photo).



**ALSO ON THE COVER**

Vote now! It's time to make your voice heard on the spot that serves the best steak dinner, serves the hottest manicures and serves serious fashion lewks. Voting in Hippo's Best of 2025 readers' poll is happening now, get your picks in at hippopress.com.

Michael Witthaus talks to Shawn Barker about his show "The Man in Black: A Tribute to Johnny Cash" coming to Nashua Center for the Arts on Sunday, Feb. 23. See the story on page 26.

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# NEWS & NOTES

## Landfill moratorium

During her Feb. 13 budget address, Gov. Kelly Ayotte announced “a landfill moratorium and a revamped regulatory process for approving these projects going forward, to ensure that our beauty as a state is not compromised,” according to text of the address available at [governor.nh.gov](http://governor.nh.gov). New Hampshire has six large landfills including “two private mega-landfills” in Bethlehem and Rochester and “roughly half of the waste buried in New Hampshire landfills comes from out of state,” according to a press release from the Conservation Law Foundation. “For too long, our state has been burdened with out-of-state waste, leading to harmful pollution,” said Tom Irwin, vice president of Conservation Law Foundation, in the statement. “While this is a significant first step, more work remains. It’s essential that we prioritize waste reduction and implement innovative solutions to ensure that waste disposal is only a last resort.” For more on that organization, see [clf.org](http://clf.org).

## More from Ayotte

In her address presenting her recommended budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, Ayotte said, “In comparison to our last budget, we are spending \$150 million less in General Funds. This adjustment in General Funds was undertaken smartly and thoughtfully, with a scalpel, not a shovel. It does so without across the board cuts and prioritizing those who are depending on services provided by the State,” according to the text at

[governor.nh.gov](http://governor.nh.gov). Ayotte highlighted aspects of the budget including that: “This budget ... ensures that our education system has the resources it needs. We are making a \$98.8 million investment in special education, nearly a 50% increase from the previous biennium.” Ayotte’s address also highlighted that the budget “sends more money to the local level,” “begins the overhaul of the Group 2 retirement system,” “expands education freedom to all public school students,” “will help get cell phones out of the classroom,” and “continues the tuition freeze at our community colleges” among other points. In discussing cuts, Ayotte said “We focused on making our government more efficient and ensuring tax dollars do more with less. We cut bloated contracts with out-of-state vendors, took a hard look at how our agencies operate and worked with commissioners to dial in spending. ... We brought our adult Medicaid eligibility back in line with pre-pandemic levels and joined our neighbors in requiring nominal copays for those receiving these benefits.”

See the full address at [governor.nh.gov/news/2025-budget-address](http://governor.nh.gov/news/2025-budget-address). You can find the text of Ayotte’s recommended budget at [gc.nh.gov/lba/budget/fy2026\\_2027\\_budget.aspx](http://gc.nh.gov/lba/budget/fy2026_2027_budget.aspx).

## Chamber prez retires

Tim Sink, president and CEO of the Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, will step down from his position on Sept. 30, according to a Chamber press release. Sink has been Chamber president for nearly 33 years. “I have had the

privilege of serving this dynamic chamber through some challenging and exciting times. It has been an incredible and fulfilling opportunity and I am beyond grateful for the hundreds of talented and generous volunteers and staff that have helped build this organization into what it is today,” Sink said in a statement in the release.

## Tech support

United Way of Greater Nashua has expanded its Digital Navigator Program, which provides free technology assistance at locations throughout the community, according to a press release. Find digital navigators available to the public at Rodgers Memorial Library in Hudson (on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 p.m.) and navigators available for clients, congregants and residents at Nashua Presbyterian Church, Coliseum Residence, AHEPA 35 and H.E.A.R.T.S. Peer Support, the release said. The United Way of Greater Nashua is looking for additional Digital Navigator locations as well as volunteers for the program; contact [info@unitedwaynashua.org](mailto:info@unitedwaynashua.org) for details. See [unitedwaynashua.org](http://unitedwaynashua.org).

## Homeownership

New Hampshire Housing, “a self-supporting public corporation that promotes, finances, and supports housing solutions for the people of New Hampshire,” according to its website, will hold a Homeownership Conference on Tuesday, March 18, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord. Tickets cost \$50 and include breakfast,

**CONCORD**

Every Little Thing (NR, 2025), a documentary about a woman who cares for hummingbirds in Los Angeles, will screen at Sweeney Hall auditorium at NHTI in **Concord** as part of the NHTI Friday Night Film Series on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Admission costs \$10 at the door, cash or check.

**NASHUA**

Local Street Eats, 112 W. Pearl St. in **Nashua**, will host a Boozy Book Swap on Tuesday, March 4, at 6 p.m. Bring up to 10 gently used books with “a little note on a sticky note sharing what you loved about each book and stick it to the cover,” according to the event description. A \$25 ticket comes with a glass of wine and a personal charcuterie plate (a full menu is available for purchase). Browse others’ offerings and take up to as many books as you brought. See [local-streeteats.com](http://local-streeteats.com).

The Nashua Garden Club will host a program on “Groundcovers: What are They and How to Use Them” presented by Kathie Skinner, lifetime master gardener, on Wednesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 121 Manchester St. in **Nashua**. The event is free and open to the public. See [nashuanguardclub.org](http://nashuanguardclub.org).

**ROCHESTER**

Students from **Rochester’s** Spaulding High School designed and painted a new mural for Max the Moose, New Hampshire’s mascot who is housed at the New Hampshire Department of Education. Max’s new background is a mural showcasing the White Mountains and created with paints and paint markers, according to a department press release.

The Pembroke Historical Society’s presentation of “Vanished Veterans: An Illustrated Introduction to NH’s Civil War Monuments and Memorials” by historian George Morrison was delayed due to weather and now you can catch it on Thursday, March 6, at 7 p.m. at the Pembroke Town Library, 313 Pembroke St. in **Pembroke**. The event is free and open to the public. Call 566-1031 for info.

according to an email about the event. The agenda for the conference includes: “Housing Market & Policy Update,” “AI and Digital Innovation in Real Estate & Lending,” “Economic Outlook: Market Trends & Interest Rates” and “Housing Solutions Panel: Innovation in Action,” the email said. See [nhhf.org](http://nhhf.org).

## For the dogs

Salem Animal Rescue League (4 SARL Drive in Salem; [sarlnh.org](http://sarlnh.org)) is holding a Pot of Gold raffle through March 17, according to a press release. The League is selling 350 tickets for \$50 each with the big winner taking home \$5,000, the release said. The next early bird drawing, for \$200, will be held on March 3, the release said. All proceeds from the raffle will support the animals at the League, the release said.

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# Future homeowners

New Hampshire Housing helps Granite Staters find their home

New Hampshire Housing was established by statute in 1981 and is, according to its website, a self-supporting public corporation that promotes, finances and supports housing solutions for the people of New Hampshire. It operates rental and homeownership programs to help those with low or moderate incomes obtain affordable housing. It has assisted 55,000 families in the purchase of homes and helped finance the "creation of more than 16,000 multifamily housing units," while receiving no operating funds from the state government. Etienne LaFond, the Director of Communications and Marketing for New Hampshire Housing, spoke to the Hippo about what New Hampshire Housing does. Visit nhfa.org.

**Q:** *Can you give a brief overview of what New Hampshire Housing does?*

New Hampshire Housing is a housing authority for the state of New Hampshire. We are a public company with a board that is appointed by the governor. We help administer rental assistance programs. We work with our partners in multi-family development in order to fund and execute on the construction of various developments throughout the state of New Hampshire and we also have a home ownership division which helps people get affordable single-family home loans, down payment assistance and var-

ious other programs.

*What is rental assistance and what sorts of services do you provide for people looking to rent in the state?*

We provide direct assistance to very low-income households. We help them maintain decent and affordable housing through HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program. This program, it's always pretty much been set up to help prevent homelessness and offers stable housing for thousands of Granite State residents. Through that program a qualified household pays a portion of their income toward rent and utilities, and New Hampshire Housing will pay the

balance directly to the landlord ... [also] emergency housing resources, we provide a lot of those to renters. Normally, setting up the voucher and wait list program, we're mainly administering that program. HUD also supports the program in which the voucher can also be used for home ownership mortgage assistance, which is actually one of our favorite programs here. It kind of gives the ability to take these people who, home ownership is just never in the cards, but it's possible to kind of convert that voucher to sort of help with mortgage payment assistance. This has helped hundreds of participants purchase their own homes.

*Can you expand on the home ownership aspect of New Hampshire Housing?*

We work statewide with a larger network of lenders and real estate professionals, so Realtors, etc., to offer single-family mortgage programs. These also can include purchasing your home yourself, refinancing, or even a purchase slash rehabilitation. It's primarily used by moderate-income buyers, but we have

low down payment options. We have various programs where people can get up to \$5,000, \$10,000 and \$15,000 in cash down payment assistance. We also provide programs that have closing costs assistance, discount mortgage insurance and rehab options.

*Can you talk about the work you all do with lead removal?*

We have a Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Programs program (NHH LHCHHP) that helps to basically eliminate childhood lead poisoning. We provide educational tools, resources and funding. We get those through federal grants but also state loans, and that's to assist homeowners, property owners of rental apartments, and even child care facilities so they can be lead-safe certified. That grant funding comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. So that's been a pretty big thing for people to apply for that grant. We prioritize a property where there's a poisoned child under 6 years of age with

CONTINUED ON PG 30 ▶

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# Sox finally open the wallet



**The Big Story – Alex Bregman:** There is an old adage that says it's not how much you spend, it's how you spend it. That is the opening discussion point for the Red Sox signing Bregman to a

contract that will pay him \$40 million a year for the next three years. Even before you get to the fact that his RBI total dropped from 98 to 75, giving a guy who hasn't driven in 100 runs since 2019 an annual salary that's larger than all but four MLB players seems like a massive overpay. Which could have been applied to get top-of-the-line FA starters like **Max Fried** or **Corbin Burnes**. There's also the fact that he's ticketed to play second base, where he's only played seven games in the majors — last done in 2017.

On the bright side he's a needed right-handed batter, a solid to very good fielder at least at third base, with major play-off experience, and is the kind of willing leader this young team needs.

Plus **John Henry** finally acted like a major market owner with a deal that's only three years. So it won't strangle them if he's deeper on the back nine than they think.

**Sports 101:** Who's the only player in college basketball (Division I) to lead the nation in scoring and rebounding in the same season?

**News Item – Have Celtics Righted the Ship?** In winning eight of 10 going into the All-Star break some think they have. Me, not so much. They have a focus problem that has them play down or up to the competition on a nightly basis. Like beating Cleveland and New York in recent high-profile games and losing to Dallas just after they traded **Luka Doncic**. And that lack of urgency has them an embarrassing 17-10 at home, while it's a league best 22-6 on the road. Something that suggests their underwhelming 39-16 overall record is more a function of head/motivation issues than physical ability.

**News Item – End-of-Year NFL Awards:** With football over, here are a few random awards for the just concluded 2024 season.

**MVP – Josh Allen** – One of the harder choices since 1963 with voters having to decide between Allen, **Saquon Barkley** and **Lamar Jackson**.

**A Little History – 1963 MVP Vote – Y.A. Tittle** threw a record-setting 36-TD-pass season and **Jim Brown** ran for all-time records 1,837 yards and 6.7 per carry average. Tittle won.

**Most Ironic Story – The Jets, of Course** – Seeing their high draft pick QB bust **Sam**

**Darnold** in the MVP conversation for leading Minnesota to an unexpected 14-3 season, just as they went 5-12 with supposed QB savior **Aaron Rodgers**.

**Worst Decision – Player Category** – Has to be Atlanta giving 36-year-old **Kirk Cousins** a four-year guaranteed deal for a bazillion dollars and then seeing him benched over the rookie they drafted right after signing him. And now they're on the hook for around \$100 million.

**Worst Decision – Coach Category** – The over-his-head **Jerod Mayo**. **Bob Kraft**, why would you hire a guy because he was polite on a trip to Israel?

**Worst Decision by an Owner – Bob Kraft** – First there was hiring Mayo, then compounding the problem by keeping the same personnel people in place (except Coach B) that had been drafting terribly for several years, which is what they did again after **Drake Maye** fell in their lap at third overall.

**The Numbers:**  
**6.5** – million dollar net loss for Pennsylvania sportsbooks on bets they handled in Pennsylvania on the Super Bowl.

**30,000** – career points scored platinum reached by **Kevin Durant** with a free throw vs. Memphis last week.

**Sports 101 Answer:** The late **Hank Gathers**, Loyola Marymount.

**Final Thought – The GOAT Race at QB:** The dumbest post-Super Bowl comment I heard came not so surprisingly from **Steven A. Blowhard** on ESPN that the GOAT race between **Tom Brady** and **Patrick Mahomes** was over because he dropped to 3-2 in SBs after his less than stellar effort vs. the Eagles. Guess he forgot Brady was 3-2 in SBs after losing for a second time to the Giants in 2011. It's silly to say it's over after Mahomes' first seven full seasons. Especially since Brady didn't win his fourth SB until his 14th season.

Thus all you can compare is after their first seven seasons, and I hate to tell the homers in the crowd, Mahomes has got Brady in playoff appearances (7-6), playoff record (17-4/14-5), playoff one-and-dones (PM none, Brady 2), TD passes (46-26) and QB rating (105.4-87.1).

That puts Mahomes in position to catch Brady if he's able to match his amazing longevity. And if so, will he be able to manage the tall task of winning four more in his late 30s, which Brady needed to do after going 10 years between winning his third and fourth SB?

So actually the race is just getting started, not the done deal some guy on TV proclaimed. *Email Dave Long at [dlong@hippypress.com](mailto:dlong@hippypress.com).*

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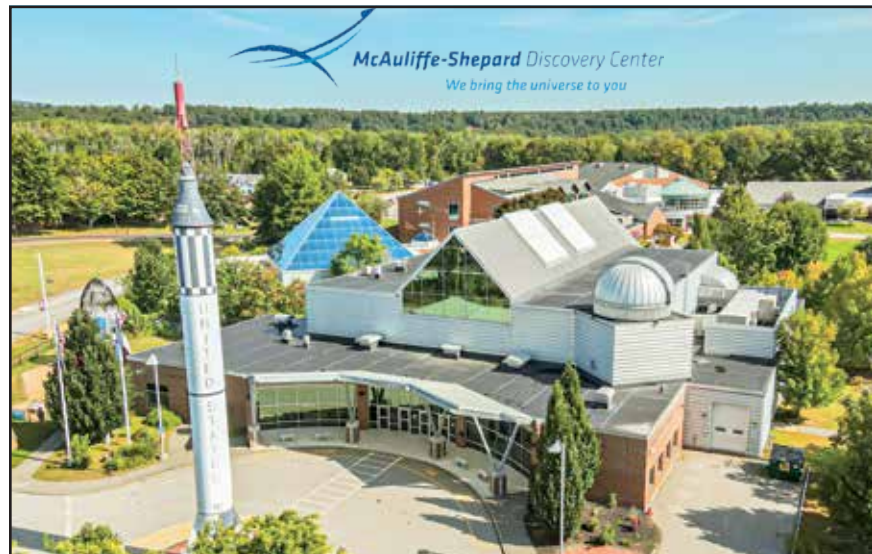
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## NEWS & NOTES

# QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

### Venomous snake on Aisle Four

As reported by WMUR in a Feb.16 online article, an employee at the Manchester Market Basket received a surprise on Friday, Feb.14, while unloading a box of bananas: a venomous snake. According to New Hampshire Fish and Game, the snake was a 2-foot-long Ornate Cat-eye, a mildly venomous snake species native to Central America. "The snake was not harmed and given to Rainforest Reptiles Shows," the WMUR article reported, and went on to quote Mack Ralbovsky, Vice President of Rainforest Reptiles. "We get something like this maybe three or four times a year," Ralbovsky said. "A lot of the invasive species we see come from situations like this where an animal might be shipped in produce."

**QOL score: -1 because SURPRISE!**

**Comment:** According to Ralbovsky, while technically venomous, this species feeds mostly on lizards and amphibians, and poses little danger to humans.

### NH Super Bowl bets

According to a Feb. 14 press release from the New Hampshire Lottery Commission, New Hampshire football enthusiasts wagered more than \$7.5 million on last week's Super Bowl game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs. "Of those who wagered on the outright winner, 89% of them were correct in their bet on the Eagles," the Lottery Commission wrote, then went on to quote Charlie McIntyre, New Hampshire Lottery's Executive Director. "Between the standard touchdown, yardage, or MVP and the Swiftie Special betting options, the Super Bowl certainly lived up to its reputation as New Hampshire's largest sports betting event of the year."

**QOL score: +1**

**Comment:** "Since the New Hampshire Lottery and DraftKings launched mobile sports betting in New Hampshire on December 30, 2019, bettors have wagered more than \$3.5 billion," the press release reported.

### Joann Fabric holding on by a thread

In a Feb. 12 online article, WMUR reported that troubled fabric and craft chain Joann Fabric has announced it will close more than half of its 800 stores, including seven of eight stores in New Hampshire. "According to court filings, the Hooksett location is the only one of the state's eight stores expected to stay open," the story read.

**QOL score: -1**

**Comment:** "Joann has filed for bankruptcy twice in the past year and is looking for a buyer," WMUR reported.

### Do not disturb until August

In a Feb. 15 online article, New Hampshire Public Radio reported that "New Hampshire farmers can now apply for funding in exchange for leaving their hayfields alone in the early summer." The conservation group the Bobolink Project hopes to preserve a strong breeding environment for bobolinks, small migratory birds that nest in New England in the spring. As reported by NHPR, the group will "compensate farmers for the income they might lose by not haying in early summer, paying them to keep their fields as habitat for the birds. Keeping that habitat also helps other birds, like meadowlarks and grasshopper sparrows."

**QOL score: +1**

**Comment:** Farmers can apply to be part of the project at [bobolinkproject.com/farmers.php](http://bobolinkproject.com/farmers.php). Applications are due by March 31.

**QOL score: 53**

**Net change: 0**

**QOL this week: 53**

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# THIS WEEK

## BIG EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 20 AND BEYOND

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

The Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, [nashuacenterforthearts.com](http://nashuacenterforthearts.com)) will host *Less is More: An Evening with Joss Stone* tonight at 8 p.m. Joss Stone is a Grammy and Brit Award-winning artist who released her acclaimed debut album, *The Soul Sessions*, in



2003 at the age of 16. Tickets start at \$70.

#### Friday, Feb. 21

Tonight marks the first of three nights of **one-act plays from the Nashua Theatre Guild** (14 Court St, Nashua, 978-300-2444, [nashuathatreguild.org](http://nashuathatreguild.org)). The plays will include a noir play, *The House on the Hill on the Boulevard at the End of the Sidewalk*; Neil Simon's *Rumors*; *Big Al*, and *Hammered: a Thor and Loki Play*. The curtain will go up tonight and tomorrow, Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (\$18 for students and seniors) through the Guild's website.

Seifert Performing Arts Center (Salem High School, 44 Geronimo Drive, Salem, 893-7069, ext. 5601, [sau57.org/pac](http://sau57.org/pac)), with special guest pianist Taige Wang. Tickets are \$35 for adults, with reduced prices for seniors, students, Salem students, and streaming. Visit The Phil's website.

p.m. in the church hall, DJed by the Salonica Boys. There will be Greek and American dancing, hot hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. There is a suggested donation of \$25; children 12 and under are free.

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St. in Manchester; [mosaicartcollective.com](http://mosaicartcollective.com)) will host **Gelli Jam**, a workshop on Gelli printing, tonight at 5:45 through 8 p.m. Suggested donation of \$5 to \$10. Some materials available for use. Register on the website.

ery-derry) will host **Harvest & Rust**, a Neil Young tribute concert, tonight at 8 p.m. Harvest and Rust represents the wide range of Neil Young's six-decade career. Tickets are \$40.

#### Friday, Feb. 21

The **Warren Haynes Band** will play the Chubb Theatre (Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, [ccanh.com](http://ccanh.com)) tonight at 8 p.m. as part of its Million Voices Whiskey Tour. Tickets start at \$55.

#### Saturday, Feb. 22

The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra (647-6476, [nhphil.org](http://nhphil.org)) will perform **Eroica Inspirations: A Journey from Beethoven to Torke** tonight at 7:30 p.m. and tomorrow, Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. at the

#### Saturday, Feb. 22

There will be an **Apokriatico Greek Dance** tonight at the Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral (650 Hanover St., Manchester, 622-9113, [stgeorgenh.org](http://stgeorgenh.org)) tonight from 7 to 11



#### Save the Date! Saturday, March 1

The **Red Hot Chilli Pipers** will bring their hard-rocking bagpipe fusion to the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, [nashuacenterforthearts.com](http://nashuacenterforthearts.com)) Saturday, March 1, at 8 p.m. The band has been described as "AC/DC meets the poet Robert Burns." Tickets start at \$29 through the Nashua Center's website.

#### Thursday, Feb. 20

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# MIND & BODY

## THE MANY BENEFITS OF DISCOVERING MARTIAL ARTS AT ANY AGE

Lenny Demers of Kenpo Academy of Self Defense in Londonderry (courtesy photo).

By John Fladd  
jfladd@hippopress.com

Lenny Demers is frustrated at how a lot of people see martial arts.

“I hear a lot of, ‘This is going to take me a couple of months,’” he said. “They’ll say, ‘I’m going to be a black belt in a couple of months. And I’m going to be able to fight 20 guys with knives and guns coming at me.’ And I try to tell them, ‘That’s not self-defense. That’s a movie. That’s not practical. Self-defense is when you’re minding your business, someone sneaks up and grabs you by your neck, and you react really quickly, and you get out of it.’”

Demers, the owner/operator of Kenpo Academy of Self Defense in Londonderry, is a master of Shaolin kenpo karate but also teaches classes in taekwondo, kickboxing, Brazilian jiu jitsu and several martial arts weapons. Many of Kenpo Academy’s classes are geared toward children, but some of Demers’ most rewarding experiences over the years have been with adult students.

“I have a lot of adult students that I’m very proud of,” he said. “I have one kid that started with me when he was 5 years old — him and his twin sister. They became like part of my family. They’ve been with me for



Bulsajo Taekwondo. Courtesy photo.

25 years. He just got his sixth degree [black belt in karate]. His sister is a fourth degree.”

Adults, he said — most adults, anyway — have an easier time wrapping their heads around the emotional aspects of karate.

“Everyone thinks karate’s all just about the anger,” he said, “punching and hitting. I say karate’s mostly about your mind, calming your mind down, keeping cool, keeping calm instead of freaking out. We talk about that a lot. Adults will take a step back a little bit, once in a while, I think, but kids don’t.”

Andrew Jefferson, owner (and instructor) of Bulsajo Kaekwondo in Goffstown, agrees that the martial arts are as much about emotional development as they are about shouting, kicking and throwing. He teaches taekwondo to students from 4 years old to 70.

“There’s a lot of character development,” Jefferson said. “You see it a lot in kids because we are giving kids extra structure and teaching them discipline and about being respectful, but you do see it just as much in teens and adults. For them it’s [rooted in] how they work really hard and overcome an obstacle and that helps them improve their self-confidence and their determination.”

“Character-building has always been part of martial arts because being a warrior or a soldier, you have to have a certain level of confidence and belief in yourself. And I think that that just carries over from old and ancient times, if you will, to modern times. And so martial arts are a great way to help people build character.”

Jefferson said adults come to taekwondo for many reasons, some philosophical and character-driven, but most come for practical reasons.

“Depending on the time of the year,” he said, “their reasoning for coming in is, ‘Well, it’s something I’ve always wanted to do and now I’m getting around to doing it.’ Or sometimes, like around the new year,

they’ll ... want to lose some weight, or gain flexibility, or get in shape, and martial arts seems like a fun way to do it.”

“Kids are also very fun to teach,” Jefferson said, “but there’s something about adults overcoming obstacles or gaining abilities that they never thought they would that feels even better.”

Linda Murphy, the owner of Bare Knuckle Murphy’s Boxing Gymnasium and Go Ninja Circus Arts in Manchester, is something of an outlier among martial artists; she teaches mostly adults. “This studio is primarily focused on competitive fighting arts, like kickboxing and boxing — USAB-style boxing,” she said. “We have a lot of people in their 20s and 30s, but we do have older people. We have right now a man who’s in his 50s and he wants to compete in boxing. There is a Master’s Division [for older competitors] and he’s doing really well. There is a kind of a team sort of atmosphere here. It’s not like the traditional bowing, black belt; it’s more military style.”

Murphy has been involved in a variety of styles of martial arts for many years.

“I started in a Japanese style and went into a Korean style,” she said. “I got black belts in those. And then shodokan and then taekwondo. But I’ve studied a lot of different things. I taught self-defense at Dartmouth College and took wing chun, like a kung fu style, up there. I’ve studied some sabbat, some tai chi, like just different things.”

Over the years, Murphy said, the approach to martial arts in her gym has changed.

“This place started out in 1978,” she said. “It was like a lot of very traditional martial arts out in that time period; people wouldn’t hit each other.” Gradually Murphy shifted to a more full-contact approach, centered on actually winning fights, in the ring or on the street. Now her gym attracts students from many walks of life.

“We get a lot of people who have a back-

ground in sports,” she said. “They take an interest in boxing or kickboxing before and want to come in and try it. I usually know they’re going to love it because they already have an understanding of what it is like to train for a sport activity. Boxing has a lot of detail on balance, footwork, head movement, positioning of how your body needs to be, and then all the strategy and the conditioning that go with it. We also get people who have done nothing. One of our coaches, who’s so much fun, he did art and ate potato chips all through high school and then finally dared to come into boxing. He was about 26 and now he’s one of the top [boxers] in New England in the 165-pound class.”

In addition to full-contact martial arts, Murphy teaches gymnastics-based circus skills tumbling, trapeze and silks. While the students in the ring tend to be men, her circus students are generally women, she said. “That tends to be more women,” she said, “but guys are always asking if they can do it. So I’ll include them if they want. Usually the easiest sell is the guys that want to compete because they want to do whatever it takes to get better at their activity. Plus they might be a little more confident to cross over that line.”

“People find that interesting. I find it interesting.”

Jason Bryant is the owner and head instructor at Leverage Brazilian Jiu Jitsu in Concord. He said that while Brazilian jiu jitsu (or BJJ) is one of the fastest-growing sports in the country it is also a very effective form of self-defense. [BJJ is] a martial art or a sport that’s grappling-based,” he explained, “so it’s very similar to wrestling. However, instead of pins we use submissions to win a match, if we’re talking competition. It’s a very hands-on physical sport that uses a lot of leverage, which is why I named my gym that. [Jiu jitsu] uses leverage techniques

CONTINUED ON PG 12 ►





Murphy's Gym. Photo by John Fladd.

### Returning to the practice

Roland Cere and Bill Big study taekwondo at Bulsajo Taekwondo in Goffstown.

They are both in their mid-60s and have come back from fairly stark physical challenges in recent years.

"I have a lot of injuries," Big said. "I've got seven fused vertebrae in my neck and two more fused down below. And because of my injuries and some other things, my flexibility has been diminishing to the point where I feel like my body has been atrophied. I felt like, well, I remember I used to do tai chi as well and that helped, helped that a lot. So I decided to go back and just go easy and see if that would help with my flexibility and my pain and so on and so forth. And I have found that it has helped with those things."

Big said that making real progress in taekwondo has meant a combination of gaining flexibility and learning to work around his physical limitations.

"I've been able to pick up some of those flexibility and skills and then I know that I cannot do certain other things because of all the metal in me and I find that I have to dismiss one technique, but I can focus in on a different one instead."

Cere faced similar challenges.

"I have a steel rod with screws in my back," he said, grimacing, "also, fusion and four back surgeries. I was told I could never walk again. This was eight years ago, and here I am walking."

Both men studied martial arts in their youth and came back to it in the past

few years. Both of them worked their way, belt by belt, to earn second degree black belts in taekwondo last fall. This came at the cost of constant, relentless practice, which has been a source of pride to both men.

"Martial arts have helped me get my self-confidence back," Big said. "Because I was told if I moved the wrong way or fell down or this or that, I could easily be paralyzed for life, but I loved [martial arts] 20 years ago, so I said, 'You know what? I'm just going to do it, and test it out.' I was really scared to do anything, but slowly but surely, it has been wonderfully helpful." He said his improvements have been as much psychological as physical. "This really gave me something to focus on and think about and it's really helped my attitude. It's improved my outlook in life and given me that confidence to be able to get back in there and do things."

"And to surround yourself with wonderful people," Cere added. "I mean, there isn't a jerk in this whole place. Everybody is very helpful and courteous. For me, taekwondo has been a fountain of youth."

Big added that in his experience martial arts has been a team effort. "You've got to get up," he said. "You have to do the kicks, you have to do the punches, but it's also a bit of a team player thing. Learning from others, working with them, getting feedback — I think that that really makes a great difference." —John Fladd

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to overcome someone who might be able to beat you with, let's say, strength. Classically, it would allow a smaller person to beat a larger, stronger person in a self-defense situation. So it's a very effective self-defense."

Bryant said one of the reasons he loves BJJ is that it is built around community values.

"I have people who come in that will never compete but they get in great shape through training here," he said. "BJJ is great for law enforcement and first responders, which is something I'm passionate about. With law enforcement, they have to get hands-on a lot. And first responders too, which I hadn't thought of until I opened the gym. [They might have to deal with] someone who may have overdosed or did something on some substance and they have to get hands-on with them and you're an EMT, so you

may have to know how to kind of handle a person. So it gives you the tools to handle another person physically while doing it with compassion so you don't have to hurt someone. We don't have strikes, so it's not like we're kicking and punching each other. So it's very effective when it comes to being hands-on and controlling another person's body and keeping both people safe."

There is not really any one type of person who studies BJJ, Bryant said. "It's a broad mix of people. We have a handful of police officers. We have firefighters that train here, nurses that train here; it's a very family-oriented group in here. We have a lot of kids whose parents train here. My wife trains here. Both of my kids train here. They want an activity that can help them feel safer, gain some confidence, get in better shape, and have a lot of fun, and building this community of people."



Brazilian jiu jitsu. Courtesy of Leverage Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

The prices martial arts studios charge their students varies widely, depending on the style of martial art they teach, and the intensity with which students want to train. Most will offer one or two free classes for new students to get a feel for the experience.

"We offer a two-class pass," Lenny

Demers said, "so students can come in and it costs nothing. I show them what we teach. I don't expect them to remember everything that I'm teaching them, but I teach them about basic self-defense, defense against somebody grabbing you, defense against somebody pushing you, defense against somebody punching you. They're not going to master it in the two classes, but in those two classes they'll get an idea of how I teach and what I teach. I don't change. If you don't like me Day 1, you're not going to like me Day 2. If you love the class Day 1, you'll love the class Day 2, because it doesn't change. All they need to do is wear some baggy clothes and come in with an 'I can' attitude and have fun."

Depending on what they want to learn and who they want to study from, many martial arts studio owners say adults should expect to pay about \$150 per month for

**What are some of the styles of martial arts that are taught in our area?**

**American Kenpo Karate**

"Our system is based on the principles of situational awareness, stability, balance, coordination, power, flow, and timing, all teaching the maximum application of motion through following natural geometry in a 'Universal Pattern' and mathematics. Adults that are looking for a system that can be adapted to fit individual ability and energy levels would find our art to their liking." —*Jason Cote, Studio Operations Director, Concord Karate Studio and Academy, 89 Fort Eddy Road, 224-5425, cks-nh.com*

**Brazilian Jiu Jitsu**

"Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) is a grappling sport where the mat serves as your ally, and having trustworthy training partners is essential for a safe and effective training environment. BJJ draws a wide range of individuals, such as fitness aficionados, martial arts enthusiasts, those interested in self-defense, trauma survivors, veterans, and people who appreciate the social environment of training and the camaraderie found in a dojo. Ultimately, BJJ is an inclusive sport that welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds and fitness levels." —*Tony McBee, owner and Head Instructor, New England BJJ Academy, 30 Henniker St., Concord, 369-4764, nebjj.com*

**Enshu Do**

"Enshudo is a straightforward traditional self-defense art. There are few forms, and memorization is not a priority, but the techniques have been tested over the last half century. The class is perfectly suited for a busy person who is interested in learning self-defense but doesn't have the time for an extensive curriculum. The atmosphere is relaxed, and training is as gentle or as intense as you and your classmates want it to be." —*Chris Marsh, owner, Independent Martial Arts School, 138 Lake St., Nashua, 882-6917, imasn.com*

**Jiu Jitsu (as opposed to Brazilian Jiu Jitsu)**

"Jiu jitsu as applied for self-defense is going to be more conducive regardless of your weight or your size. You're using leverage, advantage positions against a stronger, more powerful opponent. You don't have to be physically gifted or athletic or in any type of condition or shape to apply the skills that are highly effective for self-defense. If you're willing to learn and put in a little bit of effort, then it becomes effective. Nothing is an overnight success." —*Christopher Koneles, owner/instructor of Martial Arts Zone, Manchester, 31 Auburn St., Manchester, 206-5716, themartialartszone.com*

**Judo**

"[Competition] judo is the ability to off-balance your opponent and throw them to the ground with sufficient force to score a full point, and if that's not possible, throw them to the ground and score half point and finish with a submission. Typically the people that do well [in judo] are folks who are physical and have kept themselves in relatively good shape through the years. It is not something I would recommend for somebody looking to get in shape." —*Lee Rossi, owner and Chief Instructor, Checkmate Martial Arts, 200 Elm St., Manchester, 666-5836, checkmateselfdefense.com*

**Krav Maga**

"Krav Maga, it's not a martial art. It's sometimes categorized into that, but it's more of a combat science or system of self-defense. It was formulated by a gentleman named Yimi Lichtenfeld in Israel for the Israeli military. We don't do things like sparring or gameplay. We don't have a gamification of violence because we don't engage in any activity that does not lead to the immediate resolution of a situation, whether that be to have physical violence or to de-escalate or to run away. The people

who come [to us] are people who are looking to defend themselves, people who are looking to not get into fights, people who want to feel a little bit more safe walking around." —*Joe Estee, IMI Krav Maga, 150 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 617-774-7188, dotokushin.com*

**Muay Thai**

Muay Thai is an art, a martial art from Thailand, and it's known as the art of eight limbs, so your punches, your elbows, your knees and your kicks. It originated as their military weapons and how they would defend their borders and such. And then it has eventually evolved into a sport, and it's the national sport of Thailand. It's an art that can be modified if you have injuries or limitations, but it's great for physical fitness, stress relief, coordination, confidence and empowerment. It's just a sport that everybody can do. —*Laura Barchard, instructor, Professional Martial Arts Academy, 15 E. Broadway, Derry, 301-4252, pmaderry.com*

**Shaolin Kenpo Karate**

To me, Shaolin kenpo is the most practical form of self-defense. It's very practical, it's very fast. You defend yourself and you get out of there. It's not very flashy, it's not very flowery. It's basic self-defense. Somebody's trying to hurt you, you defend yourself and you get out of there. Everybody works with their own ability; we have a wide variety of age range and levels. I have a lot of students that come in from other styles that they've stopped — 'I made it to brown belt 10 years ago; I would love to get my black belt' — and we help them. —*Lenny Demers, owner, Kenpo Academy of Self Defense, Crossroads Mall, 123 Nashua Road, Londonderry, 437-9900, kenpo-academy.com*

**Shotokan Karate**

Shotokan is a very traditional style of Japanese martial arts. The focus is on strong

stances. We do katas, which are forms or memorized steps that have self-defense within them. Our focus is on spiritual growth as far as trying to perfect techniques, trying to build a strong body [and] a strong mind. Some of our adults started in a different style and chose shotokan because, even though it's a strong style, we're not full-contact, trying to beat each other up all day, so you can do it as you get older as well. —*Sarah Beth Gosselin, Chief Instructor, Phoenix Fire Martial Arts, 79 Plaistow Road, Plaistow, 234-8665, phoenixfire.com*

**Taekwondo**

Taekwondo is a mixture of karate and Korean martial arts like taekyeon, modernized. It emphasizes simple techniques and is easy to learn. It is very popular in the Olympics and for its dramatic kicking techniques. Taekwondo would suit any adult, especially one who is wanting to not just improve like maybe not just learn self-defense but also be able to learn how to make improvements to their well-being or to their like self-improvement. —*Andrew Jefferson, Bulsajo Kaekwondo, 703-1914, bulsajotkd.com*

**Tai Chi Chuan**

"Tai chi chuan is a low-impact training method that helps to develop one's internal energy and external strength. Based on self-defense movements, the tai chi chuan forms are practiced as a series of movements connected in a flowing pattern and performed slowly to gain precision and deep body awareness. Adult students of any age who want a holistic approach to wellness should consider tai chi chuan as a means to remain active, promote balance control and improve their health." —*Laoshi Michael Coulon (Yang YaHua), NH Yang Chengfu Tai Chi Chuan Center, 107 Alsace St., Manchester, 623-2371, nhyangtai-chi.com*



twice-weekly classes.

Andrew Jefferson agrees.

"I would say you're going to be paying over \$100 a month for at least two or three days a week," he said. "Some schools will cost more if their overhead is greater or they have more instructors they have to pay. I would like to help be on the end of the spectrum where I'm a little cheaper for people who need that and don't have the funds for a bigger full-time school. I'm filling a niche."

"It's pretty basic, a monthly, kind of monthly plan, like most fitness gyms would be," Jason Bryant said. "I offer different tiers based on training frequency, unlimited plans so someone could come in here every single day with a class as much as they want. We mostly charge month-to-month. Some people will have a seat during a sports season and then maybe they'll pause the membership for a couple months so they can go play or watch a sport. I don't want finances to be a speed bump for why someone couldn't come train in jiu jitsu."

Ultimately, the instructors of martial arts studios say they teach for the love of their particular style and to have a chance to do it



Brazilian jiu jitsu. Courtesy of Leverage Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

full-time. Andrew Jefferson put it like this: "This is pretty great. It's amazing because it's such a positive environment and we're helping people make positive changes. Even on your most trying days you still go home with a smile because you're doing good work. It's a rewarding job that I really, really like and honestly I can't imagine doing anything but teach martial arts." 🐼

### Martial arts for self-defense

Many martial arts studios teach classes in self-defense geared toward women.

Maddie Pratte is in charge of the Women Empowered Program (WEP) at Manchester Karate Studio (371 S. Willow St., Manchester, 625-5835, manchesterkarate.com). She said her program is designed to provide practical solutions to common dangers many women face.

"Our classes are for women only," Pratte said. "The program addresses 20 physical threat scenarios and 20 possible solutions to them. Because typically in most physical conflicts men are generally physically bigger and stronger, we provide women with strategies that don't depend on physical strength."

As with other areas of martial arts, Pratte said much of the WEP training is psychological.

"Self-defense for women isn't just about punching and kicking," she said. "It has just as much to do with risk assessment and setting boundaries." Because many women are socialized to please other people, she said, it can be hard for them to be assertive in the face of aggression.

Linda Murphy, the owner and operator of Bare Knuckle Murphy's Boxing Gym (163 Lake Ave, Manchester, 623-6066, bareknucklemurphy.com) agrees.

"When I teach women self-defense," Murphy said, "I like to do a variety of things. We talk a lot about boundary-setting, knowing about how to set boundaries, and verbal assertiveness, which is the midpoint between being

aggressive and being passive. I like to give set words and have people practice them."

"I think culturally we might be either too aggressive or maybe passive altogether," Murphy said. "I coach a lot of guys, so I see it in both, but women have some different issues — self-defense when it comes to, like, dating violence or sexual assault. Women have to set a boundary in that regard, which can be hard if you want to be liked or, you know, it's just like a difficult thing to navigate. So I think having words to help with that. And then also I like to do educating on the type of people that might be more likely to not listen to a boundary when you set it and realize that those people [are people you] can be more aware of, or keep a distance from, or maybe realize that's not a person to date."

—John Flaad 🐼

### Find a studio

Many martial arts studios offer classes or workshops in self-defense for women, but they don't always display information about them clearly on their websites or social media.

If you have children who study at a particular school or you are looking for classes near where you live, call any studio and ask if they have any programs specifically for women.

If you find yourself in a dangerous relationship, the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence has a 24/7 statewide helpline to get in touch with a caring and trained advocate at 866-644-3574.

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# A priest, an atheist and a teacher walk onto a stage

*Faithless* is a fast-paced look at modern religion

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

A play with humor, intelligence, drama and the pacing of a *West Wing* episode, Jon Klein's *Faithless* arrived on director Monique Peaslee Foote's desk at an inconvenient time. New Hampshire Theatre Project head Sean Robinson gave her the script, asking if she'd give it a read, when "I was in no position, with no desire to do it," she said by phone recently.

Then she dug into the story of a family crisis confronting Gus, an aging atheist, and his two grown stepchildren; Calvin, a minister, and Claire, who teaches comparative religion but is a skeptic until a head injury causes her to think she's seen the divine. The cause of the conclave is Gus's adopted teenage daughter Rosie, who's decided she wants to become a nun.

"I was hooked after three pages," Foote said. "Number one, it's funny, and I think we're at a time in life where that's good. It's witty, and it's fast-paced.... I'm all about a 90-minute show,

## Faithless

**When:** Fridays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 4 p.m. and Sundays, 2:30 p.m. through March 9

**Where:** New Hampshire Theatre Project, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth

**Tickets:** \$28 and up at portsmouthnh tickets.com

no intermission these days. Get me there, tell me the story, and then I'm going to peace out. And that's what this piece does."

Foote describes the play's four actors as "whip smart" — Jim Sears playing Gus, Stephanie Lazenby as Claire, Matt Recine in the role of Calvin, with Michelle Levine playing Rosie. "Each of them, their comedic timing is everything," she said. "I mean, I have to do little to no work, because they're bringing all of it."

Preparation began at a pace befitting the script. "I knew the rehearsal process wasn't super long, so as a director, I set the scaffolding," Foote said. "Sometimes you get those golden groups of people where they all kind of get it, and we started that way — everybody got it. We're all on the same page at the same pace."

Blocking done, the cast was ready, she continued. "Now we get to play. Let's dig into the layers of these guys. The biggest problem for us in rehearsals is to stop them from laughing. I'm like, all right, guys, get [it] together, like, let's go. Because they're funny, they're just hilarious people. So we're all there just laughing our tails off. It's great."

*Faithless* is the first Klein work that Foote's been involved with. "He's pretty clever," she said. "Quite frankly, I haven't done a ton of research on Mr. Klein, but what he has right is the story, and the way people talk to each other. The banter, the way they just throw it back and

forth is really wonderful and real."

In a review of a Washington, D.C., production of the play, DC Theatre Arts writer Amy Kotkin agreed. "The playwright's sure-fire dialogue combines lofty questions with very funny analogies to popular culture," she wrote. "Watch how he references time-shares, dodgeballs, crowbars, and *Little House on the Prairie* as his all-too-human characters slug it out."

Foote joined New Hampshire Theatre Project in 2009 as an actor. Directing "is fairly new to me, but I really think I love it," she said, *Collected Stories*, a two-woman play she directed last year starring Genevieve Aichele and Amy Desrosiers, was nominated for multiple New Hampshire Theatre Alliance awards.

"We didn't win, but it was nice to be seen," she said, adding that the experience reinforced her commitment to NHTP.

"I have a personal passion for the organiza-



Jim Sears, Stephanie Lazenby, Michelle Levine, and Matt Recine. Courtesy photo.

tion because it does really smart theater, and it tells really smart stories," she said. "The foundation of their work is starting a conversation [and] that's what I'm here for. They want to bring the tough stuff out and get people talking about it, because that's where community starts. That's where we find our humanness, in the conversation." 🍀

## Art

### Exhibits

- **"Painting the Natural Landscape Exhibit"** from artist Diane Crespo will run at New Hampshire Audubon at the McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord; nhaudubon.org) until Saturday, Feb. 22, according to the NH Audubon calendar. Crespo is a landscape painter living in southeast New Hampshire and she earned her BFA from New Hampshire Institute of Art in 2011, according to the event's website. Prior to pursuing a fine art degree she painted only with pastels, and now she paints primarily in oils and pastels and commonly paints over acrylic under-paintings or tonal under-paintings with oil paint, according to the website. Her paintings can be viewed at Diane Crespo Fine Art (27 Front St., Exeter; dianecrespofineart.com). The center is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **"Cold Snap"** a show featuring the works of Olivia Carle and Rebecca Klementovich is on display through Sunday, Feb. 23, at See Saw Art (66 Hanover St. in Manchester; seesaw.gallery). See the website for open hours.
- **"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.

• **"Illusions"** a show that explores "optical illusion, anamorphic, surrealism, blacklight and ... 3D art," according to the website, at Mosaic Art Collective (66 Hanover St. in Manchester; mosaicartcollective.com) through Wednesday, Feb. 26. The gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 2 to 6 p.m. and by appointment.

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

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

Saturdays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **"Currents"** "explores contemporary interpretations of the ocean, waterways, and the collective changes we are experiencing," according to the website, is on display now at PILLAR Gallery & Projects (205 N. Main St. in Concord; pillargalleryprojects.com). The exhibit is on display through Wednesday, April 2. The gallery is open Sunday, Tuesday and Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.

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

## Theater Shows

• **An Evening of One-Acts** presented by the Nashua Theatre Guild (nashuatheatreguild.org) will be on stage at the Court Street Theatre (14 Court St. in Nashua) Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb.

23. Shows are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$20; \$18 for 65+.

• **Every Brilliant Thing** from Theatre Kapow spent a weekend at the BNH Stage in Concord and is now headed for the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23, where tickets cost \$25 to \$30. Shows are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. See Michael Witthaus' story about the production on page 14 of the Feb. 6 issue of the Hippo (which you can find in the digital library at hippopress.com). See tkapow.com.

• **The Wild Party**, a musical set in the 1920s, will be presented by Cue Zero Theatre (cztheatre.com) Friday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 2, at the Arts Academy of New Hampshire (19 Keewaydin Drive in Salem). Shows are 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$20.

• **Escape to Margaritaville** a musical comedy featuring classic Jimmy Buffet songs with a book by Greg Garcia (creator of *My Name Is Earl*, *Raising Hope* and *Sprung*) and Mike O'Malley (the onetime Nashua resident who appeared in *Glee*) will be on stage

at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St., Manchester; palacetheatre.org) Friday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 23, with shows Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 & 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. plus Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

• **Runaway Bunny and Goodnight Moon** presented by Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia on Wednesday, March 5, at Stockbridge Theatre (5 Pinkerton St., Derry; pinkertonacademy.org/stockbridge-theatre). Tickets cost \$10 to \$12.

• **Boeing Boeing**, a comedy, will be presented by Bedford Off Broadway (bedfordoffbroadway.com) Friday, March 7, through Sunday, March 16, at the Bedford Town Hall (70 Bedford Center Road in Bedford). Shows are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$15, \$12 for seniors.

## Classical

*Includes classical, folk, heritage, pops, American songbook and other musical events.*

## Events

• **Eroica Inspirations** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra will present a program featur-

ing Michael Torke's "Bright Blue Music," Rachmaninov's "Variations on a Theme by Pagnini" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3 "Eroica" on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. at Seifert Performing Arts Center (44 Geremonty Drive, Salem). Tickets cost \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$10 for students and \$5 for Salem students. See nhphil.org.

• **Red Hot Chili Pipers** will perform on Sunday, March 2, at 7 p.m. at Colonial Theatre in Lacoconia (609 Main St., coloniallaconia.com). Tickets cost \$29 to \$69.

• **Nordic Celtic Roots: Frigg** described as "hot fiddles from cool Scandinavia" will perform on Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College (100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester; tickets.anselm.edu). Tickets cost \$45.

• **Symphony NH Wind Ensemble** presents a concert with works from Felix Mendelssohn, Mozart and Dvorak on Saturday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. at Nashua Community College (505 Amherst St., Nashua). Tickets cost \$40, \$10 for students. See symphonynh.org.



# THE ROUNDUP

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

• **Art Off the Walls:** The Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) is kicking off a new "Art off the Walls" evening event series on the third Thursday of each month, starting with Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 8 p.m. when admission is free, the band Pickleback Jack will perform and gallerist Bill Stelling will discuss the 1980s New York City art world, inspired by the Jean-Michel Basquiat and Ouattara Watts exhibit, which will close Feb. 23, according to the website. The Winter Garden Cafe will be open during the event.

• **Free jazz:** The Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) will present "Sittin' In & Groovin' Out: An Evening of Jazz with Metta Quintet featuring the Concord High School Jazz Ensemble" on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. The event, part of the Gile Concert Series, is free; reserve tickets online.

• **Hatbox carries on:** The Hatbox

Theatre (hatboxnh.com) doesn't have a physical location but it is presenting monthly shows "Discovering Magic with Andrew Pinard" on select Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Kimball Jenkins carriage house, 266 N. Main St. in Concord. The next show is Wednesday, March 19. The Hatbox is also looking for singers for an upcoming production of *An Evening Wasted (... with Tom Lehrer)* in April; contact gary@hatboxnh.com, according to a Facebook post.

• **Art and nature:** The New Hampshire Audubon's McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road in Concord; nhandubon.org) will open the exhibit "Simply Nature" on Wednesday, Feb. 26, to run through Saturday, May 3. The exhibit features a small portion of photographer Pierre Garand's catalog of nature photography. An artist reception will be held on Thursday, March 6, 4 to 6 p.m.

At the Audubon's Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way in Auburn), the Manchester Artists Association is partnering on "Nature's Gallery," an art exhibit to "celebrate creativity and nature's beauty" via pieces in a variety of media from 15 local artists, according to the website. This exhibit will run from Thursday, March 6, through Friday, April 25. Both McLane and Massabesic centers are open Wednes-

days through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Jury duty:** Bedford Off Broadway is holding auditions for *12 Angry Jurors*, the company's spring show, which will be performed June 6-8 and June 13-15, according to a press release. Rehearsals are Sunday afternoons and Monday and Wednesday nights. Auditions will be Monday, March 10, and Tuesday, March 11, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Bedford Town Hall (70 Bedford Center Road, across the street from the public library) and will consist of cold readings, "monologues are appreciated," the release said. Contact BedfordOffBroadway@comcast.net with questions.

• **Paint!** The Center for the Arts, 428 Main St. in New London, has several painting classes on the schedule. "Beginner Paint with Zoey Parys" will run Monday, Feb. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. at 428 Main St. in New London. Paint on a 5-inch by 5-inch canvas with oil paints (materials provided); cost is \$35 per person. "Perfecting Birches with Kim Schusler" will be Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, 428 Main St. in New London, and feature instruction in painting birches using watercolor; BYO supplies. Cost is \$35. A four-week "Oil/Acrylics Fundamental Painting Approaches with Tatiana Yanovskaya-Sink" class will run Tues-

days, March 1-25, from 9 a.m. to noon; the cost is \$300. Also in March, "Painting Spectacular Flowers in Watercolor with Robert O'Brien" will run Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; cost is \$120 plus materials. See centerfortheartsnh.org/classes.

• **On stage:** Described as a "darkly comic, atypical love story," *Gruesome Playground Injuries* will run at the Players' Ring Theatre (105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth; 436-8123, playersring.org) Friday, Feb. 28, through Sunday, March 16 — 7 p.m. on Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets cost \$29, \$26 for students, 65+, military and first responders.

• **Fairest of them all:** Southern NY Youth Ballet will present *Snow White* at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) on Sunday, March 30, at 1 and 4 p.m. The show is "appropriate for children and young ballerines of all ages" with an approximately 90-minute runtime and a brief intermission, according to a Palace email. Tickets cost \$24 to \$29. Tickets to a pre-show tea with Snow White cost an additional \$20. The tea starts 45 minutes before showtime. 🍵

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# INSIDE/OUTSIDE

## Unlocking the mystery of the unlocking Jeep



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk: My 2017 Jeep Cherokee has remote entry using a key fob. After locking my Jeep with the remote, it unlocks by itself, and the headlights turn on. After a few weeks of this, the lock button on my remote no longer worked.*

*Any idea what could be wrong? There are no service lights on. Thank you. — Javier*

I don't know what's wrong, but I would suggest you investigate the simplest thing first, Javier. And that would be your keyless remote, or key fob.

You say when it unlocks by itself, the headlights come on. That is normal unlocking behavior. If everything were working correctly and you came back to your car the next morning and found it still locked, when you pressed the unlock button on the remote, the doors would unlock and the headlights would come on. So something is signaling it to "unlock."

I'm wondering if the remote control itself is malfunctioning. If the metal contacts of the unlock button have been damaged, and

the remote is unlocking the car, even when you don't press the unlock button, that could explain both the behavior and the fact that the remote stopped working.

If it's continually sending an unlock signal, the battery in the key fob would wear down after a few weeks and would stop working entirely.

How could the remote get damaged? Let me count the ways. You dropped it, stepped on it, sat on it, ran it over, closed it in the door. Who knows?

If you're certain you've done none of these things but have teenage kids who drive, see the list above again.

The easiest way to test this theory is to go excavating in your kitchen junk drawer and find the second remote that came with the vehicle. Take the battery out of the main remote (just to be sure it's not emitting a signal during this test), and put a new battery in your second remote to make sure it's at full power.

If the locks work normally with the second remote, the car is fine, and all you need is a replacement remote. If the problem continues with a second remote, then there's an electronic issue with the car itself, and

the first thing I'd look at is the TIPM. That stands for Total Integrated Power Module. Or Take an Infinite Pile of my Money.

A TIPM, if that's the problem, can cost over \$1,000 to replace. But there are shops online that will sell you a rebuilt one and

take yours in a trade in, for a quarter of that price.

But take it a step at a time, Javier. Good luck.

Visit [Cartalk.com](http://Cartalk.com).

### INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

*Dear Donna, I recently picked this up and fell in love with it. There is no information on it or markings. I am wondering if you can give me any help on age or value. Not looking to sell it, just curious Thank you for any information.*

Deb

Dear Deb,

Let me start off by saying it always makes me smile to hear of people enjoying older items.

Your pin is considered costume jewelry. Costume jewelry is made to have an expensive appearance to it. It can be tough to identify without a maker's mark. Signed pieces usually bring higher prices, all makers varying. Also sometimes older pieces are



made the same way today so it can be tough.

Looks like your swan pin is a mixed metal with silver tone finish. I think it's safe to say 1960s range. Could even be a bit more modern as well.

The value is in the range of \$10 to \$15 but if you love it

priceless!

Thank you for sharing, Deb, and enjoy your pin.

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



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# Spring is on its way

It's flower time

By Henry Homeyer  
listings@hippopress.com

## — THE GARDENING GUY —

Here in Cornish Flat, this seems like an old-fashioned winter. Temperatures have been consistently below freezing, and the ground has had at least a light covering of snow most of the time. No deep snow, the kind that insulates the ground and keeps tender perennials safe, but enough to soothe the eyes when looking at the landscape.

But we gardeners are already thinking of spring. Fortunately, I planted many small pots of Tête-à-tête daffodils last fall and stored them in my basement, which stays at 40 degrees. The foliage is up now, and their roots are pushing through the holes in the bottom of the pots, so I know they are ready to bring up to the warmth of the house. I've been putting them in sunny windowsills, and many are blooming — and ready to give away. For me, this is a spring ritual: giving 4-inch pots of flowers to friends and neighbors.

If you are hungering for spring, you might consider going to a spring flower show. Unfortunately, many of the spring shows have given up. Boston no longer has its extravaganza, so the Connecticut show in Hartford is now New England's big event. It has many nice displays and many great classes to attend. This year it is Feb. 20 to Feb. 23.

Then there is one of my favorites, the Vermont Flower Show in Essex Junction, Vermont, March 7 to March 9. It's small enough to see everything in one day, but has lots to offer.

In Rhode Island there is the Home Show from April 10 to April 13, and it has a flower and garden portion, though I have not been down to Providence since the big flower show folded its tent in 2016.

For the travel-inclined there is the Philadelphia show, March 1 to March 9. It has been a spring tonic since 1829. The poinsettia was introduced to American gardeners at that first show, and Ben Franklin may have attended that year. Go on a weekday for smaller crowds, and be prepared to spend a lot but to have a lot of fun.

February is the month I go through my seed packets to see what I need to buy. Most vegetables and flowers stay viable for three years. Exceptions to that rule are all onion-family seeds and parsnips, so I buy them each year. I've found that shallots do very well for me and keep longer than



These daffodils are ready to bloom on a sunny windowsill. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

onions in the winter, so I will buy new seeds and plant them indoors and keep them under lights starting in early March. Peppers of all sorts need a long time to get big enough to plant outdoors, so I also start them in March. Tomatoes I start in April, usually around the 10th.

This is also the time of year to pay attention to your houseplants. The days are getting longer, roots and shoots are growing, and they need more water. If you are trying to overwinter a rosemary plant, double the water it gets. A fully dry rosemary is a dead rosemary, and late February or early March is the time of year most of us kill ours. I admit to failing with rosemary by keeping to my weekly watering schedule.

If you have the mid-winter blues, buy yourself some nice cut flowers at your local florist. I prefer to buy from a florist, as they generally take better care of their flowers than big box grocery stores. Many years ago I went to the Boston flower market — leaving at 5 a.m. — with a friend who owned a florist shop to buy flowers for her shop. The flower market was the size of a football field and had every kind of flower you could imagine. What fun that was!

Some years ago the flower trade got a bad reputation because many of the flowers came from Colombia, South America, where the growers used pesticides liberally and paid their workers a pittance. But I believe that now many flowers in winter are grown in the States and done so with environmentally sound practices. You can always ask your florist where their flowers come from.

If you want cut flowers that last a long time in a vase, try alstromeria or lisianthus. Both hold up very well. Also excellent are chrysanthemums, asters, sea lavender and bells of Ireland.

Then there are a couple of gorgeous potted flowers that bloom for a long time at this time of year: cyclamen and Phalaenop-

# SOUTHERN NH'S WINTER PLAYGROUND

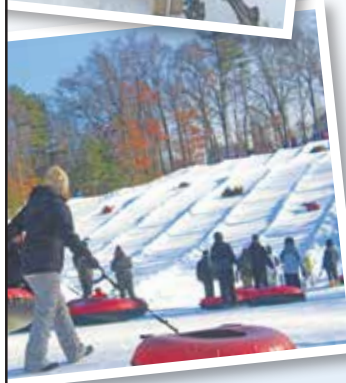
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## INSIDE/OUTSIDE

# KIDDIE — POOL —

Family fun for whenever

### Ski days

Area ski hills are offering special events and camps during New Hampshire's February vacation week.

• **McIntyre Ski Area** (50 Chalet Way in Manchester; mcintyreskiarea.com/kids-vacation-camps, 622-6159) has single-day and five-day camps, which run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., for ages 6 to 12. Five-day lessons for ages 4 to 6 (12:30 to 1:30 p.m.) and 6 to 16 (9:30 to 11:30 a.m.) are also available. See the website for pricing for camps and rentals.

McIntyre is also holding its Rail Jam on Sunday, Feb. 23 — rider registration is 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 11:45 a.m. riders meeting at the top of the park, at noon the GROM Heat (13 and under) starts and then skiers open class at 12:30 p.m. and snowboarders open class at 1:30 p.m. Registration costs \$25 and includes a lift ticket during the event; helmets are required, the website said.

McIntyre is open daily; lift skiing hours during vacation week will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and tubing hours will have two-hour sessions starting at 11 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m.. McIntyre also offers a one-rate fee for lift tickets and rentals during the end of the day until 9 p.m.; prices vary based on start time. See the website or call for each day's offerings and times.

• **Pats Peak Ski Area** (686 Flanders Road in Henniker; patspeak.com, 428-3245) offers a three-day camp, Feb. 24 through Feb. 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., for 7- to 14-year-olds, with and without rentals.

Pats Peak also offers a Pay One Price ticket for skiing, snowboarding, snowtubing, rentals and lessons for the end of the day — through 10 p.m. starting at 4 p.m., 5 p.m. or 6 p.m., price varies based on start

time. The promotion runs through vacation week (except for Sunday, Feb. 23).

### Art vacation

• The **Currier Museum of Art** (150 Ash St. in Manchester; currier.org) is offering a three-day workshop for ages 6 to 12 during February vacation. The half-day workshops are themed "My Favorite Things" and run Wednesday, Feb. 26, through Friday, Feb. 28 — 9:30 a.m. to noon for grades 1 to 3 and 1 to 3:30 p.m. for grades 4 to 6. The cost is \$180 (\$162 for members).

Visit the museum Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for kids ages 12 and under and \$5 for ages 13 to 17, \$15 for students and 65+ and \$20 for regular admission.

• **Kimball Jenkins** (266 N. Main St. in Concord; kimballjenkins.com) has February Break Programs for ages 7 to 14 with morning programs (9 a.m. to noon) for ages 7 to 11 and afternoon programs (1 to 4 p.m.) for ages 11 to 14. Classes are \$198 and "rotate through a diverse array of artistic mediums with each class featuring an art activity that aligns with our arctic theme," the website said.

### Air and space

• During February school vacation week, the **Aviation Museum of New Hampshire** (27 Navigator Road in Londonderry; aviationmuseumofnh.org) will be open additional days — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday Feb. 25, through Thursday, Feb. 27. The museum will offer the Elite Flight Simulator on Feb. 25 and Feb. 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. for kids ages 12 and up, according to a museum release. The museum will also host a story time on Feb. 26 at 11 a.m., the release said.

• The **McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center** (2 Institute Drive in Concord; starhop.com) is open daily through Sunday, March 2, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission costs \$13; \$12 for ages 13 through college and 62+, and \$10 for ages 3 to 12, according to the website. Planetarium show tickets are an additional \$7 for everyone ages 3 and up. 🗨️



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◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 17

sis orchids. The key to these is to minimize watering and to keep them out of direct sunlight. The cyclamen are cheap enough that you can compost them when they are done blooming (in eight to 10 weeks). Phalaenopsis orchids are more expensive but can be saved from year to year.

Lastly, this is a good time of year to think about your outdoor gardens and how you can improve them, come spring or summer. Start by looking out your favorite window. What do you see now that gives you joy? If you only grow flowers, the landscape is

bleak.

Think about trees, shrubs and decorative grasses that you could add to the landscape. Would a nice miniature or weeping conifer fit into a perennial bed? A Merrill magnolia in the middle of your lawn could offer a nice shape and buds and bark that please you. It will bloom magnificently with large double white blossoms in April. It will give you something to look forward to. And after all, isn't that part of the reason why we all garden?

You can reach Henry at [henry.homeyer@comcast.net](mailto:henry.homeyer@comcast.net). 🗨️



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# Kitchen futures

Culinary cards get you thinking about your day and your meals

By John Fladd  
jfladd@hippopress.com

**News from the local food scene**

By John Fladd  
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **New coffee shop:** Two Moons Coffee and Curiosities has opened in South of the 6 Salon (155 Dow St., No. 102, Manchester, 782-7198, southofthe6.com). Described on the South of the 6 website as having a “spooky-vintage-bookstore vibe,” it serves coffees, teas, smoothies and baked-in-house pastries. Open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **Food donations and beer:** To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, 836-6947, tosharebrewing.com) will host a food drive to benefit the New Hampshire Food Bank (nhfoodbank.org) Saturday, Feb. 22, beginning at 5 p.m. Bring a donation and get a chance to spin To Share’s Prize Wheel for a chance to win awesome prizes.

• **Worldly wines:** Wine on Main (9 N. Main St., Concord, 897-5828, wineonmainnh.com) will host a free wine tasting with Tom from Pearl Lake on Saturday, Feb. 22, between 1 and 4 p.m. Taste four wines from around the world. The store is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as well.

• **Irish and delicious:** Peddler’s Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com) will host its Annual Guinness Dinner Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. There will be four beers, four courses and endless fun conducted by “Cicerone” Michael Reardon, New England Guinness Ambassador, with special guest speaker Malcolm Patterson from Diageo Guinness USA. Tickets are \$65 each through eventbrite.com.

• **Tea in history:** Register now for a special tea lecture. The Cozy Tea Cart (104A Route 13, Brookline, 249-9111, thecozyteacart.com) will host a discussion on “The Social Impact of Tea in Our History,” beginning with the discovery of tea and the spread of tea throughout Europe, the tea trade with China and the Opium Wars, its impact on the U.S., and the First World War. Throughout the presentation, enjoy sipping teas from the major tea-producing countries. The lecture will take place Thursday, March 20, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., but registration is required at least two weeks in advance. Tickets are \$30 per person through the Cozy Tea Cart website. 🍵

There are any number of ways to get inspiration in the kitchen and to become more thoughtful about your food. Dawn Aurora Hunt has a new one: a deck of cards.

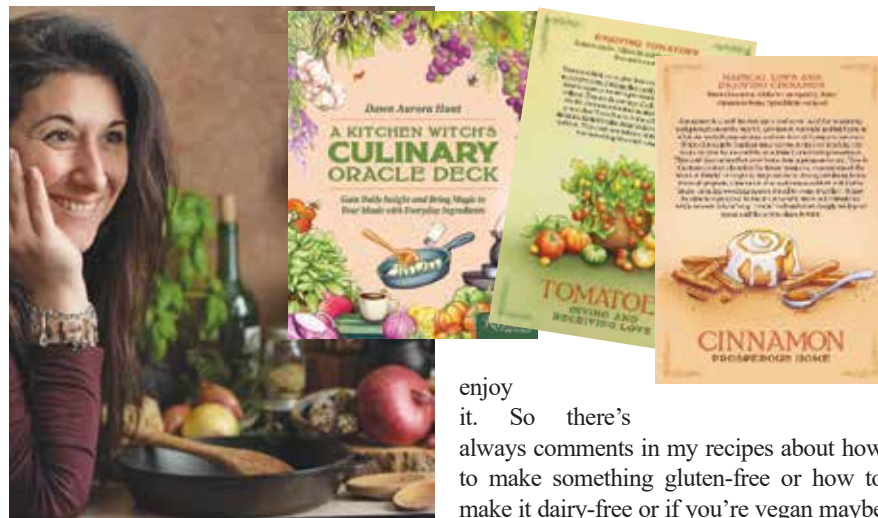
“This is the Kitchen Witch Culinary Oracle Deck,” Hunt said. “This is different from a tarot deck, because a tarot deck has suits and you’ll always have certain cards. This is a fun tool; you could use it for insight and inspiration, but you could use it just for cool recipe ideas.”

The Culinary Oracular Deck is a set of 50 large, illustrated cards, similar in appearance to tarot cards, each with a different kitchen ingredient or tool.

Hunt, the owner of Cucina Aurora Kitchen Witchery in Salem, spends a lot of time thinking deeply about cooking and the sharing of food.

“Everything I do is about cooking with love,” she said, “cooking with intention and finding a deeper meaning in food and our connection to food through the seasons and mindfulness.” It was this introspective examination that led to the development of her new Oracular Deck. “I was teaching classes on the deeper meanings of simple food ingredients for a while and people have been saying to me, ‘You know, this would make a really cool oracle deck, so that people could take the class and work with that information in an easy way.’ I have a couple of other cookbooks that I wrote that are sort of themed similarly; this has been a natural progression for that.”

Hunt used one of the cards as an example. “One way that you might use these cards would be in the morning while you are maybe having a cup of coffee or getting ready for your day, you might shuffle up the cards and



Dawn Aurora Hunt. Courtesy photo.

pull one card out of the deck. Maybe you pull the card that says ‘eggs’. Eggs are associated with new birth, new life and fertility. So you might read about the symbolic meaning of eggs on the egg card, and it says that your endeavors are about to reap rewards. What have you been working on? What have you been working toward or fighting for? When the egg card shows up for you, things in your life are about to come together. So you can take that message into your day.”

Alternatively, Hunt said, you might not have eaten eggs in a while and this might simply inspire you to cook or eat something eggy. Each card has suggestions of dishes and a simple recipe. So you might find yourself making quiche for dinner. Almost all the recipes are ones that are easily customizable.

According to Hunt, that was a deliberate decision.

“I have a ton of food allergies,” she said. “So when I am creating recipes, I’m coming from a perspective of whether I can eat this and how people with other limitations might

enjoy it. So there’s always comments in my recipes about how to make something gluten-free or how to make it dairy-free or if you’re vegan maybe you want to do this other thing. I try to make it as accessible as possible. I try to keep all of my recipes simple, accessible. And in most cases you probably already have 75 percent of the ingredients lying around your house. The truth is, the simpler the recipe, the simpler the ingredients — in my opinion — the better the meal is. The more we connect with those ingredients and the closer we are to Mother Earth and what Earth is giving us.” 🍷

**Oracle Deck**

*A Kitchen Witch’s Culinary Oracle Deck: Gain Daily Insight and Bring Magic to Your Meals with Everyday Ingredients* is available through the Cucina Aurora website, or where books are sold, and costs \$24.95.

There will be a launch party for the deck at Moon River Wellness Center (17 Windham Road, Pelham, 635-8938, moonriverwellnesscenter.com) Sunday, Feb. 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free.

**FOOD**

# Shakes and teas

New shop offers beverages with purpose

By John Fladd  
jfladd@hippopress.com

Sean and Gina Wren picked a challenging location for a health-oriented business. PowerThirst, a shake and tea bar specializing in nutritional supplements, is located directly between a Mexican restaurant and a Domino’s Pizza on Mast Road in Goffstown. Two doors down is a tobacco and vape shop. On the other hand, there is a

gym in the same plaza.

PowerThirst owner Sean Wren said the location has actually worked in their favor.

“We definitely have had a nice steady increase in traffic from the gym next door,” he said. “And then having the new Mexican restaurant next door [La Vaka Mexican Restaurant], it’s been fantastic, because I see so many people walking by, going into the restaurant, looking up, looking at our sign and looking in our window. I’ve had

a number of people say, ‘Oh yeah, I was going to eat next door and I finally had a chance to stop by; I want to see what this place is all about.’”

What it is about is vitamin- and nutrient-enriched shakes and teas.

“PowerThirst is technically classified as a nutrition club,” Wren explained. “and what we provide are beverages for people who are looking to be more positive and health-minded. The teas have B vitamins,



# IN THE KITCHEN

WITH **AMANDA SPOONER**



Amanda Spooner. Photo by John Fladd.

Chef at Honey Cup Tea Room in Manchester. Spooner is also a caterer and personal trainer. “I was raised in the restaurants with my dad. I was busing tables at 6, 7 years old and then, around 12, was doing catering with my aunt’s company, Sunshine Catering. ... My first job out of high school was at the Black Brimmer as a hostess, then as a server and a bartender. Then I went to La Carreta and was a bartender over there, and then I had my first baby. At that time I took a different [path]. I started catering, but I also was intrigued with health and wellness so I ended up getting my certification to be a personal trainer. I’ve been in that industry, maintaining my certification for about 20 years now. My husband and I ended up opening up Big Kahuna’s Cafe and Grill out of Merrimack. I operated that for about 10 years. When Mara [Honey Cup owner Mara Witt] started thinking about the concept of having her own place, she came to me and asked if I would be up for helping her out. ... I had full artistic, creative freedom with this. The only thing I had to really do was home in on how she wanted to see everything, how she wanted to feel. And from that point I was able to curate a menu.”

**What is your must-have item in the kitchen?**

All I need is fire. If I have fire, I can cook anything. We’ve done open pit cooking. I’ve done rustic-style cooking, open flame. An oven’s great, but I can cook anywhere with anything. And that’s probably my strongest suit as a chef. Also love. Love is what makes food great.

**What is your favorite thing on your menu?**

I think the “Chaffle” is really cool — the loaded potato waffle with cheddar, egg and potato. But our turkey sandwiches are the bomb, with herb cream cheese. I love the fresh herbs. I add in sage, basil, and thyme, garlic, and just emulsify that all together. It’s magical.

**What is a trend you are seeing in food in New Hampshire?**

I think we’re seeing a lot more of the cultural foods — things like African cooking, things that are becoming trendy on TikTok. There’s more of an interest in the flavors from around the world, which I admire.

**What would you have for your last meal?**

Lobster. All the lobster I could stuff in my face.

**What is your favorite thing to cook at home?**

In the summertime, I love cooking over fire. Then in the fall with the harvest, the harvest vegetables, the produce is just so beautiful ... I love making stews with bones and bone marrow; it’s just rich, hearty, nourishing quality food. 🍷

**1940s Recession Chocolate Cake**

*This cake was popular during the Great Depression and World War II because it uses no eggs, butter, or milk—ingredients that were often rationed, so it’s also vegan!*

**Servings:** 8-10  
**Prep Time:** 10 minutes  
**Cook Time:** 30-35 minutes

- Ingredients:**
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 cup granulated sugar
  - 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - ½ teaspoon salt
  - 5 tablespoons vegetable oil (or melted shortening)
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - 1 tablespoon white or apple cider vinegar
  - 1 cup water

**Instructions:**

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease an 8x8-inch baking pan lightly with oil or non-stick spray.
2. Mix dry ingredients: In the baking pan (or a mixing bowl), whisk together the flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt.
3. Make wells: Using a spoon, make three small wells in the dry mixture—one for oil, one for vinegar, and one for vanilla.
4. Add liquids: Pour the oil, vinegar, and vanilla into their respective wells, then pour the water over everything.
5. Mix gently: Stir the ingredients until well combined, making sure there are no dry spots, but don’t overmix.
6. Bake: Place in the oven and bake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
7. Cool and serve: Let the cake cool in the pan before slicing. You can dust it with powdered sugar or top it with a simple icing if desired.

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# JOHN FLADD COOKS

## Chocolate Mint Crinkle Cookies

A brief lesson in food science

There is a trick that some bartenders use called “fat washing.”

It means is that anything that is soluble in fat is usually soluble in alcohol, and vice versa. For the past decade or so, really dedicated bartenders have used this fairly random chemistry fact to bring together bourbon and bacon, or rum and brown sugar.

This recipe turns that process on its head. Fresh mint is steeped in warm melted butter, which strips the mint’s minty mintiness away to give a startlingly delicious flavor note to these deeply chocolatey cookies.

### Chocolate Mint Crinkle Cookies

A rubber or silicone spatula will make this recipe easier.

- 4 Tablespoons (half a stick) butter
- ¼ cup (28 g) fresh mint leaves and stems, chopped
- ¾ cup (90 g) all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup (21 g) cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking powder – if you don’t remember the last time you bought baking powder, it’s time to replace yours

- ¼ teaspoon kosher or coarse sea salt
- ½ cup (106 g) brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 4 ounces (114 g) bittersweet or semi-sweet chocolate – I like the chocolate chips from Trader Joe’s; they have a cocoa content of about 53% and a nice deep flavor
- ¼ cup or so of granulated sugar
- ½ cup or so of powdered sugar

Melt the butter with the chopped mint in a small saucepan over medium-low heat, and simmer until “fragrant,” which is recipe language for “Don’t burn it, but cook it until you can smell the mint.” The mint will cook down like spinach. Remove the saucepan from the heat, and let the mint steep in the melted butter for half an hour.

In a small bowl, combine the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Set it aside until you need it.

Melt the chocolate in the microwave, 20 seconds at a time, stirring until all the lumps disappear.

After the butter and mint have spent half an hour getting to know each other better, use a fine-mesh strainer to strain the butter into the bowl of your stand mixer. If the but-

ter has set up a little reheat it briefly on the stove to remelt it.

Beat the melted butter and brown sugar until they are thoroughly integrated — maybe three minutes on medium speed. Add the egg — just the inside, not the shell — then the melted chocolate. Reduce the mixer to its lowest speed, and add the flour mixture — a couple of spoonfuls at a time, so it doesn’t poof up in your face — just until everything is barely mixed together.

At this point take a good look at your cookie dough. If it is stiff and PlayDoh-like, you can move on to the baking phase. If it is a little loose, put it in the refrigerator for half an hour or so to stiffen up.

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Divide the dough into balls of one tablespoon each, about the size of a ping-pong ball. Roll each of the balls in the granulated sugar, then in the powdered sugar, then transfer it to a baking sheet with a piece of parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Place the balls about 2 inches apart; with a little creative reordering, there should be room enough for all of them — about a dozen.

Bake the cookies on the middle rack of



Chocolate Mint Crinkle Cookies. Photo by John Fladd.

your oven for five minutes, then turn the baking sheet and bake for another five minutes, then remove the baking sheet from the oven and let the cookies cool thoroughly. They will have gratifying cracks and crevices across their tops, accentuated by the powdered sugar.

What you will have ended up with are dark, chewy, richly cocoa-y cookies with a minty flavor — but not minty like toothpaste, or breath mints, or mint-chip ice cream. These have a cool, fresh zing to them that makes them something special.

These are second-date cookies. 🍪

antioxidants, any number of our boosters for hydration, electrolytes, and things like collagen and different supplements to help with their overall health. The protein shakes provide protein and other nutrients. The goal is to keep everything tasting good, but also keeping it at a very low sugar content so people can be mindful of total caloric intake throughout the day.“

Customers order a tea drink or a shake at the counter, and the Wrens customize it according to flavor and the customer’s specific requirements. A long-distance runner might ask for different nutritional supplements than a power-lifter, for instance.

“If they have the time,” Wren said, “I would talk with them and ask them what they’re currently doing. And then just give them some general guidelines as to things they might want to try, because in the world

of fitness and nutrition ... everybody’s body’s different. There’s no cookie-cutter approach of ‘this is what you have to do if you want to be good at X’. It’s going to be a little bit different for everybody.”

Wren looks at his job as providing a counterbalance to some of the dubious nutritional information that many people are bombarded with.

“It’s a tough place to be if you’re someone who’s trying to get into fitness and you don’t have a lot of background in [nutrition],” he said. “Because while the internet is fantastic, you can find anything you could possibly imagine on there, and, there are a lot of charlatans out there and there’s a lot of people selling snake oil and just telling you this is the new hot thing that’ll change your life. My goal here is to provide people with the most simplified, straightforward answers to get them moving in the right direction and make a lot of those decisions for themselves and be as informed as possible. Because yes, you’ll have people who like a new supplement will pop up and everybody says it’s the greatest thing since sliced bread. And then a year goes by and all of the actual research comes out, it



Shakes waiting to spring into action. Photo by John Fladd.

doesn’t do anything.”

That relaxed, comfortable attitude is reflected in the interior of PowerThirst. There is comfortable seating, and space for customers to sit and talk with each other or to take their time enjoying their drinks.

“I didn’t want to set this up and have it be too over-the-top gym health-related,” Wren said. Someone who doesn’t necessarily go to the gym all the time or is in that space would think, ‘Oh that’s not for me.’ We want to feel very welcoming to any-



PowerThirst owner Sean Wren. Photo by John Fladd.

body who just enjoys a delicious beverage, wants to make some slight changes in their life, all the way up to people who are like hardcore athletes, gym goers, high school athletes.” 🍪

### PowerThirst

**Where:** 553 Mast Road, Goffstown, 937-2412, powerthirstnh.com

**When:** Open seven days a week: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



# POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

## Sanhedrin, *Heat Lightning* (Metal Blade Records)



I haven't checked in with the Metal Blade Records stable in quite a while. This record seemed mildly interesting, given that the New York-based three-piece band's musicianship is advertised as being top-drawer, which made me think of Rush, a band that was rather interesting for two or three albums before they decided to kind of suck. Ah yes, look at that typical Metal Blade-approved cover art, evoking an AI-created Halloween card created for sale at dollar stores; but wait. Opening song "Blind Wolf" rips off the intro to Metallica's "For Whom The Bell Tolls," then combines Savatage and Mercyful Fate and tables some

really nice melodic touches. "Above The Law" nicks Buckcherry but in a good way; "Franklin County Line" Slayer-izes the Fates Warning formula. It's fine for what it is. A — Eric W. Saeger 🍷

## Mark Pritchard & Thom Yorke, "Back In The Game," Warp Records



The only reason I came within a country mile of paying any attention whatsoever to this new collaborative single is its painfully strident "edgelord" factor: "Look everyone, it's Thom Yorke! And it's on Warp Records!" Usually I avoid both those things like leper-hospital Dumpsters (my favorite all-time line about Yorke was Dr. David Thorpe's iconic "Thom Yorke, the man with completely superfluous letters in both his names," while Warp's output has never failed to disappoint me; they have a strange fetish for electronic music that's so boring it makes Postal Service sound innovative), but it was either this or dig

through my emails for something great but which most of you wouldn't care about anyway, so here we are. Pritchard, of Reload and Link fame, previously featured Yorke on the Sigur Ros-ish "Beautiful People" from his (Pritchard's) 2016 LP *Under The Sun*; the only thing that made that tune interesting was its New Age vibe and some mildly innovative vocal effects. This track employs the latter trick again but with less boldness; all in all the song comprises dated, government-issue krautrock that sounds like a bonus track from the *Saw* soundtrack. There, I pretended to care about this, I demand my gold sticker this instant. C — Eric W. Saeger 🍷

## PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

NOTE: Local (NH) bands seeking album or EP reviews can message me on Twitter (@esaeger) or Facebook (eric.saeger.9).

• Before I descend into the usual madness about albums good and bad coming out this Friday, Feb. 21, here's something important. You guys know I'm a big supporter of New England-based singer-songwriter **Kris Pedersen**, whose award-winning Tom Petty-meets-Florida Georgia Line/Kings Of Leon-style music is amazingly well-written and well worth your support. You may also know that he's had a very tough slog of it, but on Feb. 9 the absolute worst possible thing happened. A fire consumed his family farmhouse in South Wallingford, Vermont, in no time flat; his home and all his possessions were totally gone before the fire department guys could even get set up. He and his wife April have literally nothing left but the clothes they were wearing that day, and that's where you rascals come in: Kris's fan base stepped up immediately to start a donation page, which is already up to around \$3,500 at this writing with a \$5,000 goal (and no limit), but he's obviously going to need a lot more than that to get back to business, so if you're feeling it, please do give. "Mutual aid" is a big thing nowadays, as you probably know, and this is as deserving a cause as you could ever imagine, so if you have a few bucks to spare, please donate to Kris's GoFundMe pool at this page: [www.gofundme.com/f/support-kris-and-family-after-devastating-fire](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-kris-and-family-after-devastating-fire). It's the best way for you to help out this struggling world-class artist.

• British techno-funk-blues singer Neo Jessica Joshua is better known as **Nao**, and her new album, *Jupiter*, will be out this Friday! Her resumé is top-level, including singing backup for such peeps as Kwabs and Jarvis Cocker, and six years singing in an all-girl a cappella group called The Boxettes. And so I must take her very seriously, and thus I shall remove my (true fact) custom-designed T-shirt that reads "Your Band Completely Sucks =( " and approach this section with all the professionalism I can muster, excuse me while I open this box of Jolly Joes grape jellybean thingies to ensure that my brain has enough reserve sugar for the task! So I am watching the visualizer video for her new song, "Happy People," and let me just say that she is blessed with a bubbly voice that sounds kind of like a Munchkin; the music underneath is sparse and lo-fi, a combination of acoustic guitar and authentic-sounding Afrobeat, in sum a very island-vacation feel to this. It is very nice, yes.

• Singing human **Patterson Hood**, a co-founder of the band Drive-By Truckers, releases his fourth solo album this Friday, *Exploding Trees & Airplane Scream!* The spearhead track is "The Pool House," whose video features the stupidest-looking puppet I've ever seen, doofing around in a quaint doll house or whatnot. The music is an eclectic but listenable mixture of Bon Iver and corporate country & western, sort of like what you'd hear if Garth Brooks toned things down in order to do a Robert Palmer trip from 1990, you know, when he did that dumb Marvin Gaye cover tune.

• British wimp-indie bros The Wombats are up to six LPs as of this Friday, with their latest, *Oh! The Ocean*. "Can't Say No" is a twee-ized ripoff of Echosmith's two big hits, you know the ones. Nice but completely disposable.

• Lastly we have Boise, Idaho-based producer-DJ-whatever Trevor Powers, who goes by the nym **Youth Lagoon**, and his new album, *Rarely Do I Dream!* "Speed Freak" is wicked cool in my opinion, a ratty, crunchy no-wave/electro joint with an '80s-pop center. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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## POP CULTURE BOOKS

*Mood Machine*, by Liz Pelly (Atria, 241 pages)

Spotify is in the news this month, having recently reported that 2024 was its first profitable year, with 675 million monthly active users and climbing. That made investors happy, but what are the costs? That's the subject of music journalist Liz Pelly's timely examination into the rise of the music streaming company, founded nearly 20 years ago in Sweden.

Spotify, of course, is the Godzilla of streaming services, eating the lunch of most of its competitors, although Apple and Amazon also have strong shares of the market. The business model sprang vaguely formed from the forehead of Napster, the digital music-sharing platform — notably illegal — that freed consumers from actually paying for music.

While today's streaming services, of course, are not free, they remain a mind-boggling value. As Hua Hsu wrote for *The New Yorker*, "Adjusted for inflation, a monthly subscription to an audio streaming service, allowing convenient access to a sizable chunk of the history of recorded music, costs much less than a single album once did."

Musical artists and their associated companies, however, have contended that the change has come at their expense, and it's been a slog to get to the point where most everyone is satisfied. Count Pelly among those who are still pushing back against the changes that streaming has wrought.

Spotify's goals, apart from making money, are ostensibly to make what Pelly calls "self-driving music" — the ability for a subscriber to "simply open the app, press 'play,' and instantaneously get the perfect soundtrack for any given moment or context, without having to search, click, or think."

But in achieving this on-demand nirvana, Pelly argues that Spotify and other streaming services have helped give rise to a "dynamic of passivity" among consumers, who are spoon-fed what algo-

ritms have determined they will like. Spotify playlists "worked as a flattening, making a scene that was previously sprawling and complicated into something commodified and palatable, cutting out many original voices along the way."

At the same time, music has become background noise in modern life, and "it follows that a population paying so little conscious attention to music would also believe it deserving of so little financial remuneration," Pelly writes.

These are all interesting cultural changes worthy of reflection, but Pelly comes to this book as a nuts-and-bolts journalist, not as a philosopher. She tracks the minutiae of Spotify's ascent, which she was covering in real time, and reports with detail on the inner workings of the company, aided by both named and anonymous employees, some of whom have since left.

That sourcing adds, of course, to pervasive cynicism about Spotify throughout the book. Pelly and her sources are not dispassionate observers, but people with a take, and that take is that streaming, while great for consumers, is not great for artists, who are paid fractions of a cent per stream. And how big the fraction is is virtually impossible to figure out, given the many variants possible, which include the type of streaming plan (free, standard or family?) and even what country the consumer lives in.

"This is all to say: the digit on an artist's royalty statement is much more complicated than a per-stream rate. And artists are almost always systematically shut out of any sort of transparency around the calculations creating their livelihoods," Pelly writes, explaining how the digital age has led to a music labor movement.

To be fair, she notes, with every change in technology, the industry has had to adapt. In the 1920s the rise of the phono-



graph was seen with the same sort of concern that musicians have had about digital music. Musicians went on strike in the 1940s over LP records; they feared unemployment, believing that people were less likely to go see a live performance if they could hear the music in their living rooms. Of course, that's proved not to be the case; witness Taylor

Swift's proceeds from her Eras tour.

Still, Pelly sees the problem of artist compensation as something all of us should worry about, even arguing that music, like libraries, should be seen as a "public good," with public funding and protections. Some people in Europe are even arguing for what amounts to a universal basic income for musicians. In fact, that's even been tried in Ireland, which experimented with a "Basic Income for the Arts" that gave 325 euro each week to 2,000 artists for three years. France has also experimented with a system that gave artists their own unemployment system, in order to make up for the irregularity of their work.

In her conclusion, Pelly asks, "What's the ethical alternative to Spotify?," which is not a question the average American consumer will want to entertain, and Pelly admits there are no easy answers. For those who are not inclined to worry about artist pay — or to consider that "our shared music cultures would be so much more compelling and diverse if so many [musicians] did not need to abandon the arts for jobs with health insurance" — *Mood Machine* may seem like so much hand-wringing, interspersed with sometimes mind-numbing detail on things like hyperpop and Discovery Mode.

Ultimately, while well-reported, *Mood Machine* is more a book for insiders than the general public. But insiders and struggling musicians will love it.

B- —Jennifer Graham

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## Books

### Author events

- **Tess Chakkalakal** will talk about her new book, *A Matter of Complexion*, at the Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, themusichall.org) on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$54.50 and include a signed book.
- **Brad Timm** will talk about his new book, *Wildlife Out Your Window*, at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Christine Murphy** will talk about her new novel, *Notes on Surviving the Fire*, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbook-

store.com) on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:30 p.m.

- **KD Mason**, a New Hampshire author, will talk about his Jack Beale mystery series at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on Saturday, March 1, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Jean 'Boomer' Grenier** will talk about his debut book about a collection of paranormal stories, at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, 417-

7981, balinbooks.com) on Saturday, March 1, at 2 p.m.
- **Lisa Rogak** will talk about her new book, *Propaganda Girls: The Secret War of the Women in the OSS*, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Leah Dearborn** will talk about her book *Grenier Air Base: A Beacon on the Home Front* at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua,

balinbooks.com) on Saturday, March 8, from 2 to 3 p.m.
- **Alton Brown** will sign copies of his new book, *Food for Thought: Essays and Ruminations*, at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com) on Monday, March 10, for a short while at 4 p.m. This event will not include a presentation. He will be at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord on Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. See ccanh.com.

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**Nickel Boys (R)**

A Black teen with a promising future is derailed when he's sent to a Florida reform school in the 1960s in *Nickel Boys*, the Oscar Best Picture and Best Adapted Screenplay nominee based on the Colson Whitehead novel.

Elwood (Ethan Herisse) is 17 but already attending college and taking part in civil rights protests. While walking to school one day, he takes a ride from a man who is subsequently pulled over and charged with having stolen a car, which means Elwood is now in trouble for having stolen a car even though he didn't know the man at all. He's sent to reform school Nickel Academy, where he's told working hard will earn early release. This turns out to be extremely untrue; Nickel is a segregated hellscape where the Black kids, some of whom look like they're barely old enough to be out of preschool, are beaten, tortured and assaulted and used as unpaid labor. Meanwhile, the white kids do some labor but they also play football and are called "mister." Elwood hangs on to the idea that his loving grandmother, Harriet (Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor), will work with a lawyer to get an appeal and get him out of there. In the meantime he tries, with varying results, to stay clear of some of the more bullying kids and the more sadistic adults. He has help with this when he befriends Turner (Brandon Wilson), a kid with more time at Nickel and nobody waiting for him on the outside. Turner seems to both admire and be deeply wary of Elwood's belief that justice for them, for the wrongs they suffer, is possible. We also jump to the future, decades later in New York City, and see the burden that these boys, now men, carry with them from what happened to them at Nickel.

*Nickel Boys* jumps around a bit in time, going back and forth between the 1960s and the adult futures of the characters. It also starts with a presentation of Elwood's life that feels very much like memories — partly remembered moments, faces, sounds. Scenes are often shot from his point of view or, later, from Turner's point of view. Which means sometimes we're feeling what's happening from the point of view of a terrified, somewhat naive Elwood and sometimes



*Nickel Boys*

we're seeing him react. And we're sometimes looking directly at the horrors of Nickel and sometimes just seeing parts of it — a glimpse of a boy who has been beaten, for example. This approach, along with historical photos and news clips of normal life, help to build the horror of this alternate, medieval world happening in the middle of 1960s America. Helping to build all of this are the great performances all around. Herisse gives us Elwood as he comes to better understand what he's up against at Nickel and formulate a new plan to deal with it. Ellis-Taylor also helps to place Elwood's story in the larger context of history and how she hoped better things for him than the circumstance he was forced into. *A Available for purchase on VOD.*

**Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (R)**

Renée Zellweger's *Bridget Jones* is once again a single lady but this time has kids and a welcome amount of maturity in *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy*, the fourth *Bridget Jones* movie but possibly the truest one to the characters since the first one.

Bridget Jones and Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) really did, finally at last, live happily ever after. They have a lovely house in London and two lovely kids — Billy (Casper Knopf) and Mabel (Mila Jankovic). And their usual suspect circle of friends: long-time buds Shazzer (Sally Phillips), Jude (Shirley Henderson) and Tom (James Callis) as well as work buds Miranda (Sarah

Solemani) and Talitha (Josette Simon) and even, as the kids call him, Uncle Daniel (Hugh Grant) — onetime Mark rival Daniel Cleaver. But then four years before the start of this movie, Mark, on a humanitarian mission, is killed and Bridget Darcy is suddenly a widow. After attending a memorial outing for Mark and getting barraged with advice about moving on and jumping back into dating, a frazzled but determined Bridget decides that she will in fact make an effort to live and be a part of the world. She tries out dating again with the much-young Roxster (Leo Woodall). She heads back to work. She actively advocates for her son, reserved like his dad, with his science teacher Mr. Wallaker (Chiwetel Ejiofor), who dings Billy's grade for adding "heaven" to an illustration of the levels of the atmosphere. Because this is Bridget Jones, she also worries about her appearance, tries some not-entirely-legal lip plumper, reacquaints herself with her shape-wear and says yes to way too many things at her kids' school. She also turns to gynecologist Dr. Rawlings (Emma Thompson) for advice about everything when she probably needs a therapist, which is really just an excuse to slide the droll and awesome Thompson into a few scenes telling Bridget to just carry on.

Not all of the *Bridget Jones* sequels made sense or felt true to the characters as they were set up in the first movie way back in 2001 but this one really does feel like we're catching up with those original characters who have grown and changed but also still care for each other. The friend chemistry with Bridget and her three OG buds feels exactly right, as does her relationship with Daniel and the way Hugh Grant has aged Daniel, maturing him in some ways but very much not in others. Bridget and Mark's relationship, freed of the middle two movies' need to keep them apart for nonsense reasons, finally feels like the relationship we'd expect them to have — both what they had before Mark died and how Bridget feels now. Bridget is still deeply in love with Mark, and aware that she will always be deeply in love with Mark and always be with him, to some degree, because of their kids. And she is deeply in love with their family, a family that is still actively keeping him

a part of it even as they try to move on without him. She comes to terms, over the course of the movie, with the idea that she can love Mark in this way, always be his Mrs. Darcy, and still make new connections, fall in love again without leaving him behind. It's sweet and grown-up and unexpectedly romantic. **B+** *Streaming on Peacock.*

**One of Them Days (R)**

Roommates Dreux and Alyssa have just nine hours to make \$1,500 in rent or get kicked out of their apartment in *One of Them Days*, a very middle-of-the-road-but-in-a-good-way action-on-a-clock comedy.

On the morning of the first of the month, landlord Uche (Rizi Timane) tells Dreux (Keke Palmer) and Alyssa (SZA) that he never received their rent money, which Alyssa's boyfriend Keshawn (Joshua David Neal) was supposed to deliver to Uche, and that if they don't come up with the money by 6 p.m. he's evicting them. When attempting to get the money back from Keshawn doesn't work — he's "invested" it in a line of T-shirts he plans to sell — they attempt to figure out other ways to get \$1,500 including donating way too much blood and getting a payday loan. Meanwhile, at 4 p.m. Dreux has an interview with the corporate office of the diner franchise she works for as a waitress; she's hoping to secure a manager job that could dramatically change her fortunes. Later in the movie, after the women sell a seemingly abandoned pair of Air Jordans, local tough guy King Lolo (Amin Joseph) informs them that they have until 8 p.m. to get him \$5,000 for those sneakers, which were his. Thus does the movie regularly count down until potential catastrophes as Dreux and Alyssa find themselves in increasingly desperate and ridiculous situations.

This is a perfectly fine movie with a few moments of standout comedy and very good friends-for-life chemistry between SZA and Keke Palmer. Their chemistry probably does most of the work of making this movie the fun hang that it is and pulling all the characters and wackiness (Janelle James as

CONTINUED ON PG 29 ►

**Film**

• **Oscar Nominated Shorts** — *Live Action* will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, Feb. 20, 4:10 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 21, at 12:30 & 4:45 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22, at 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 23, at 12:30 & 4:45 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 24, at 4:10; Wednesday, Feb. 26, and Thursday, Feb. 27, at 4:10 p.m.

• *A Complete Unknown* (R, 2024) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23, at 12:45, 3:45 & 6:45 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 24, through Thursday, Feb. 27, at 3:45 and 6:45 p.m. (except Wednesday, Feb. 26, when the first show is 3:30 p.m.)

• *Paddington in Peru* (PG, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres

in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23, at 1:30, 4 & 6:30 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 24, and Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 27, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.

• *Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl* (PG-13, 2003) will screen at Flying Monkey in Plymouth, flyingmonkeynh.com

on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6 p.m.

• **Oscar Nominated Shorts** — *Documentary* will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:20 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22, at 12:15 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 25, and Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6:20 p.m.

• **Oscar Nominated Shorts** — *Animation* will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Friday, Feb. 21,

at 2:45 & 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 22, 3:30 & 7:45 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2:45 & 7 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 24, at 2:45 & 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 4:10 p.m.; Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6:20 p.m.

• *Every Little Thing* (NR, 2025), will screen at Sweeney Hall auditorium at NHTI in Concord as part of the NHTI Friday Night Film Series on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Admission costs \$10 at the door, cash or check

• *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* (PG, 1982) will screen at Flying Monkey in Plymouth, flyingmonkeynh.com, on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 6 p.m.

• *Underworld* (1928), a silent film directed by Josef von Sternberg and starring George Bancroft, will be presented with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis on Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m. at the Wilton Town Hall Theatre in Wilton.



By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Family affair:** With their reputation as Canada's first couple of music set, **Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy** bring their children Mary Frances and Michael Leahy on stage for an evening of Cape Breton's finest mix of Celtic and traditional sounds. The show exudes youthful energy, while highlighting MacMaster and the elder Leahy's fiddling talent. Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, \$43 and up at palacetheatre.org.

• **Rock coda:** Formed by Dokken's principal songwriter George Lynch after the band broke up in 1989, **Lynch Mob** long outlasted its predecessor. Its first album went gold, and a dozen more followed in a 30-plus-year career that's now wrapping up with a farewell tour called *The Final Ride*. The current lineup is Lynch on guitar, singer Gabriel Colon, with a rhythm section of Jaron Gulino and Jimmy D'Anda. Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$55 at tupelohall.com

• **Mule man:** *Million Voices Whisper*, the first solo effort in nine years from **Warren Haynes**, has the Gov't Mule leader and former Allman Brothers guitarist in town for a show. The new disc reflects the soul music that inspired Haynes early on and includes a collaboration with fellow Brother Derek Trucks, "Real, Real Love," that was begun by Gregg Allman before his death. Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$55 and up at ccanh.com.

• **Ski jam:** The house band for monthly jams at BNH Stage, **Andrew North & the Rangers**, play an apres-ski trio set. The local favorites have a new live album, *Thanks for the Warning, Vol. 2*, recorded at Feathered Friend Brewery in early December 2023. Their Bandcamp page has even more, like a 24-song show from early January show at Penuche's Ale House in Concord. Saturday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m., Pats Peak, 686 Flanders Road, Henniker. Visit andrewnorthandtherangers.com.

• **Twin bill:** A solid rock 'n' roll show has true believers **Dr. G & Lee** topping the bill. Louisiana-born Brandon Gauthier fell in love with a 100-watt Fender amp as a teenager and has kept it loud since, while managing at the same time to earn a doctorate in history. Lee Durham is a veteran guitarist. All-female trio *Catwolf* opens. Saturday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., Milk St. Studios, 6 Milk St., Dover, \$15 at portsmouthtickets.com.

## NITE

# Here's Johnny

### The Man In Black is a convincing Cash

By Michael Witthaus  
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Shawn Barker walked into auditions for the rock 'n' roll origin musical *Million Dollar Quartet* sporting a rockabilly haircut with his eyes on the Elvis Presley role. The show's director had a different idea, however, and his decision pointed Barker down a new path, and a multi-decade career starring in his tribute act, *The Man In Black*.

"There's a million guys that audition for doing Elvis for this play, and we can pick any of them," Barker, in a recent phone interview, recalled being told. "There's nobody that we can pick that would do Johnny Cash except for you. You're the one guy that we found that was like, this is *the guy*."

Once that was settled, the musical's producers encouraged Barker to take an immersive approach for his role.

"I went to where he was buried, to his house — anything I could do to associate myself with Cash," he said. His efforts ultimately benefited *The Man In Black*. "It ended up getting so popular that I never took stage with the *Million Dollar Quartet*; I got too busy and I had to drop out of the Broadway production."

Barker's show begins in the Sun Records studio where Cash cut his first songs, and continues chronologically through the ups and downs of a career that found him at one point banned from the Grand Ole Opry for kicking out stage lights in an intoxicated rage, and welcomed back a few years later to host a weekly television show from the Ryman Auditorium stage.

The *Johnny Cash Show*, which ran for two seasons from 1969 to 1971, was an incubator for the crossover genre of music now called Americana, and Barker takes time to focus on it during his show.

"We talk about how groundbreaking it was," he said. "He had people like Bob Dylan, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, Linda Ronstadt ... it was a very eclectic group he brought to his show. And he was doing the folk festivals and stuff like that at the time when the whole hippie movement was going on. He was a pretty diverse cat, man."



Shawn Barker. Courtesy photo.

It concludes with the series of *American Recordings* albums that Rick Rubin began producing in 1994. Covers of songs like Nine Inch Nails' "Hurt" and "Rusty Cage" from Soundgarden helped bring Cash to a new, younger audience, driven by his music and stark, moving videos played on MTV and VH1.

"He's one of the only stars that I can think of that had that far-reaching of a fan base," Barker said, adding he sees evidence of this whenever he performs. "We get little kids at the show sometimes and then we'll get the people that were there when he was at Sun Records. Eight to 80 years old is our crowd age; it's pretty wild."

Barker took a winding road to becoming a convincing doppelgänger for the country legend. Growing up in Missouri, he sang in the church choir and joined school band in fifth grade. When he started playing with friends in the basement, it was lots of rock music, from Skid Row and other popular groups.

After high school, he was in a working band called Nothing Yet, doing everything from early Stones to Rage Against the Machine — not exactly Pentecostal fare.

"Oh, yeah, it was a total departure," he

said. "Church was one of the things I grew up in as a kid, and probably went about as far from as you can, and then came back to as an adult."

To hear Barker tell it, becoming Johnny Cash was bound to happen.

"My dad and his family are all from Arkansas like Cash, and grew up doing the same things," he said. "Even as a kid, my dad worked on a cotton farm and pulled the big sacks. He'd talk about how his hands would be cut up from reaching in and popping the cotton off the plants."

The Cash look was a gift from above, but the rest came naturally, and since launching the act in 2003, Barker's come to see it as his destiny. Fans clearly love it. "The accent was something I already had in genetic makeup," he said. "I didn't really think it was going to be that long-lasting ... but it turns out that this is probably what I'm going to do until I die." 🍷

### The Man In Black: A Tribute to Johnny Cash

**When:** Sunday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.

**Where:** Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua

**Tickets:** \$29 and up at etix.com

## 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, strangebrew-tavern.net, 8:30 p.m.

### Events

- **Ray Harrington/Kindra Lansbury/Ben Quick/Paul Landwehr**

Backyard Brewery, Manchester, Friday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

- **Anthony Rodia** Colonial, Laconia, coloniallaconia.com, Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m.

- **Feud Gone Wild** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m.

- **Ben Pratt** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m.

- **Dave Russo/Lenny Clarke** Fulchino Vineyard, Hills, fulchinovineyard.com, Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

- **Frank Santorelli** Headliners, Manchester, headlinersnh.com, Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

- **Anthony Rodia** Nashua Center for the Arts, nashuacenterforthearts.com, Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

- **Will Noonan** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com, Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

ter, chunkys.com Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

- **Ace Aceto** McCue's, Portsmouth, Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m.

- **John Pizzi** Chunky's, Manchester, chunkys.com Friday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m. (family friendly) and 8 p.m. (21+)

- **March Madness Comedy Show** Rockingham Ballroom, rockinballroom.club, Saturday, March 1, 7 p.m.

- **Kirk Minihane** Colonial, coloniallaconia.com, Saturday, March 1, 8 p.m.



# MUSIC THIS WEEK

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

**Auburn**  
Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622-6564

**Barrington**  
Nippo Lake Restaurant 88 Stagecoach Road, nip-pobluegrass.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

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

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

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

**The Forum Pub** 15 Village St., 565-3100

**Hermanos Cocina Mexicana** 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669

**Lithermans** 126B Hall St., 219-0784

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

**Uno Pizzeria** 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667

**Deerfield**  
The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374

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

**LaBelle Winery** 14 Route 111, 672-9898

**Dover**  
Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953-7240

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

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

**Epping**  
Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559

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

**Epsom**  
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027

**Exeter**  
Sea Dog Brewing Co. 5 Water St., 793-5116

**Gilford**  
Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841

**Goffstown**  
Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230

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

**The Goat** 20 L St., 601-6928

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

**Smuttynose Brewing** 105 Towle Farm Road

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

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

**Henniker**  
Henniker Brewing Co. 129 Centervale Road, 428-3579

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

**Hudson**  
The Bar 2B Burnham Road

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

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

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

**Kingston**  
Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962

**Laconia**  
405 Pub & Grill 405 Union St.

**Fratello's** 799 Union Ave., 528-2022

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

**Londonderry** 935-9947

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

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

**Stumble Inn** 20 Rockingham Road, 432-3210

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

**Bonfire** 950 Elm St., 663-7678

**Derryfield Country Club** 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880

**The Foundry** 50 Commercial St., 836-1925

**Fratello's** 155 Dow St., 624-2022

**The Goat** 50 Old Granite St.

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

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

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

**Shaskeen Pub** 909 Elm St., 625-0246

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

**Strange Brew** 88 Market St., 666-4292

**Meredith**  
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

**San Francisco Kitchen** 133 Main St., 886-8833

**Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse** 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070

**Spyglass Brewing** 306 Innovative Way, 546-2965

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

**Newbury**  
Goosefeathers Pub Mt. Sunapee Resort, 1298 Route 103

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

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

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

**The Goat** 142 Congress St., 590-4628

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

**Napoletana** 14 Market Sq., 570-3610

**Press Room** 77 Daniel St., 431-5186

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

**Salem**  
Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033

**Dreo** 254 N. Broadway, 824-6337

**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

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

**Windham**  
Windham Restaurant 59 Range Road, 870-9270

## Thursday, Feb. 20

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

**Bedford**  
Copper Door: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

**Concord**  
Hermanos: Will Hatch, 6:30 p.m.

**Derry**  
Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m.  
LaBelle: Harvest & Rust, 7:15 p.m.

**Dover**  
Auspicious Brew: Two Hour Parking, Ratland, A Day Without Love, 8 p.m.

**Epping**  
Telly's: Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.

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

**Hampton**  
CR's: Clandestine, 6 p.m.

**L Street:** karaoke, 9 p.m.  
**Smuttynose:** Harrison Goodell, 5:30 p.m.  
**Whym:** music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

**Hudson**  
Luk's: Lee Ross, 7 p.m.  
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

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

**Laconia**  
405 Pub & Grill: Mikey G, 6 p.m.  
Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

**Londonderry**  
Stumble Inn: Charlie Chronopoulos, 7 p.m.

**Manchester**  
Fratello's: Jordan Holmes, 5:30 p.m.  
Goat: DJ Cri\$\$, 9 p.m.

**Merrimack**  
Homestead: John Chouinard, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Nashua**  
Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m.  
Fody's: DJ Rich Karaoke, 9:30 p.m.  
Shorty's: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

**Pembroke**  
Pembroke City Limits: Gary's Musical Gathering, 7 p.m.

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

**Portsmouth**  
The Goat: Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.  
Press Room: Diaspora Radio, Parallel Lines by Blondie, 9 p.m.

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

**Sanbornton**  
Steele Hill Resort: Dakota Smart, 6:30 p.m.

**Warner**  
The Local: Brad Myrick, 5 p.m.

## Friday, Feb. 21

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

**Brookline**  
Alamo: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.

**Concord**  
The Forum: Lucas Gallo, 8 p.m.  
Hermanos: Paul Lovely, 6:30 p.m.

**Bedford**  
Murphy's: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.

**Seabrook**  
Red's: Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.

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



## SIGNS POINT TO YES

For more than 20 years, **Metta Quintet** has innovated jazz music and fostered new audiences by commissioning work by up-and-coming composers and collaborating with young musicians. Their upcoming *Yes, Indeed!* show will feature the Concord High School Jazz Ensemble. They stop by the Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required.



**Dover**  
**Auspicious Brew:** drag night, 8 p.m.

**Epping**  
**Telly's:** Chad LaMarsh, 8 p.m.

**Epsom**  
**Hill Top:** QuintRsential, 7 p.m.

**Exeter**  
**Sea Dog:** Chad Verbeck, 5 p.m.

**Hampton**  
**CR's:** Bob Tirelli, 6 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Mike Jetty, 9 p.m.  
**L Street:** karaoke, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Eric Grant Band, 9 p.m.  
**Whym:** Freddie Catalfo, 6 p.m.

**Hudson**  
**Luk's:** Johnny Roberts, 7 p.m.  
**Lynn's 102:** karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.

**Jaffrey**  
**Park Theatre:** Kota, 6 p.m.

**Laconia**  
**405 Pub & Grill:** Taylor Hughes, 7 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.

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

**Londonderry**  
**Coach Stop:** Andrea Paquin, 6 p.m.  
**Stumble Inn:** The Slakas, 8 p.m.

**Manchester**  
**Backyard Brewery:** Ryan Williamson, 6 p.m.  
**Derryfield:** Carbon 14, 8:30 p.m.  
**Foundry:** Garrett Smith, 6 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Sean Coleman, 6 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Bailout, 9 p.m.  
**Shaskeen:** The Regals, 9 p.m.  
**South Side Tavern:** Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.  
**Strange Brew:** Peter Ward Band, 9 p.m.

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

**New Boston**  
**Molly's:** Travis Rollo, 7 p.m.

**Pembroke**  
**Pembroke City Limits:** Jim Tyrrell, 7 p.m.

**Portsmouth**  
**Gas Light:** Dave Clark, 9:30 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Chris Toler, 9 p.m.  
**Mojo's:** Tim Theriault, 7 p.m.  
**Press Room:** Balaclava & Spirit Ghost w/ Dog Lips & Plant Fight, 7 p.m.  
**Thirsty Moose:** D-Rowe Beatz, 9:30 p.m.

**Windham**  
**Windham Restaurant:** Brian Walker, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 22**

**Alton Bay**  
**Foster's Tavern:** Karen Grenier, 6 p.m.

**Bedford**  
**Murphy's:** Justin Bethune, 6 p.m.

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

**Brookline**  
**Alamo:** Johnny Rey, 6 p.m.

**Concord**  
**Hermanos:** John Franzosa, 6:30 p.m.

**Dover**  
**Auspicious Brew:** Salty Greyhound, Pond Scum, Gunshot Glitter, 8 p.m.

**Epping**  
**Holy Grail:** Nice & Naughty, 4 p.m.  
**Telly's:** 603s, 8 p.m.

## COMEDY NIGHT

Find your new favorite comedian at Backyard Brewery (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, backyardbrewerynh.com). **Ray Harrington** is a filmmaker and comedian whose web series *Undependent* won first prize at the NYC Web Festival. **Kindra Lansburg** (pictured) has been featured at the Women in Comedy Festival, the Boston Comedy Festival and the Rogue Island Comedy Festival. **Ben Quick** has brought his interest in comedy and music together with his musical comedy duo Garden Fresh Beats.

**Paul Landwehr** has appeared on NPR. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees, and the laughs start at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21.



**Trivia**

**Trivia events**

- **Oscar Winners trivia** Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com).

**Other games**

- **21+ Scratch Ticket Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Friday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$13 and include a \$5 food voucher.
- **Family Friendly Theater Candy Bingo** at Chunky's in Manchester (chunkys.com) on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 6:45 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include a \$5 food voucher.
- **Cribbage Tournament** weekly on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. at Stone Church (5 Granite St. in Newmarket; 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com)

**Weekly trivia**

- **Thursday** trivia with ABC Trivia at Oddball Brewing (6 Glass St., Suncook, 210-5654, oddballbrewingnh.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at 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, reednorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at June Cork Pub (66 Third St., Dover, thejuncorkpub.com) 6 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.

- **Thursday** music trivia at Day of the Dead Taqueria (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with Geeks Who Drink at the Barley House (132 N. Main St., Concord, thebarleyhouse.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with 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 Shooters Sports Pub (6 Columbus Ave., Exeter, 772-3856) at 7:15 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechangersportsbar.com) from

- 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) at 8 p.m.
- **First Thursday of every month** trivia at Fody's (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com) at 8 p.m.
- **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday** trivia at Biergarten Anheuser-Busch (221 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.
- **Monday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Renegade's Pub (103 Nashua Road, Londonderry, renegadespub.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Monday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Thirsty Moose (360 DW Highway, Merrimack, thirstymoosetaphouse.com) 7 p.m.
- **Monday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Wing-Itz (256 Central Ave., Dover, wing-itz.com) 7 p.m.
- **Monday** Pub Quiz at Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) at 7:30 p.m.
- **Monday** trivia with Good Thomas at Red's (530 Lafayette Road, Seabrook, 760-0030, seabrookredskitchenandavern.com) 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Sea Dog Brewing (5 Water St., Exeter, 793-5116)

- at 6 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Axe & Ale (9 Old Shore Road, Gilford, axe-ale.com) 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com), at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Shopper's Pub + Eatery (18 Lake Ave., Manchester, shoppersmht.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at The Old Salt (490 Lafayette Road, Hampton, oldsalth.com) 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Thirsty Moose (83 Washington St., Dover, thirstymoosetaphouse.com/dover) 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Thirsty Moose (72 Portsmouth Ave., Exeter, thirstymoosetaphouse.com/exeter) 7 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at the Forum Pub (15 Village St., Concord, 552-0137), at 8 p.m.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Gibb's Garage Bar (3612 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, gibbsgaragebar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.
- **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Bert's Beers (545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992, bertsnh.com) at 6 p.m.

- **Wednesday** trivia at Community Oven (845 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 601-6311, thecommunityoven.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Otto (33 Water St., Exeter, 810-6886) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Earth Eagle Brewing (350 Route 108, Somersworth, eartheaglebrewings.com) 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Patrick's Pub (18 Weirs Road, Gilford, patrickspub.com) 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at East Derry Tavern (50 E. Derry Road, Derry, eastderrytavern.com) 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Flannel Tavern (345 Suncook Valley Road, Chichester, flanneltavern.com) 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Talespinner Brewery (57 Factory St., Nashua, ramblingtale.com, 318-3220) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Popovers (11 Brickyard Sq., Epping, 734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday** The Greatest Trivia in the World at Revolution Taproom and Grill (61 N. Main St., Rochester, 244-3042, revolutiontaproomandgrill.com/upcom-

- ing-events) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Backyard Brewery (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, backyardbrewerynh.com) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Don Ramon (6 Whitney St., Merrimack, 420-8468) from 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Wednesday Kings Trivia** at KC's Rib Shack (837 Second St., Manchester, 627-7427, ribshack.net), sponsored by Mi Campo, in Manchester 7 to 9 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at City Hall Pub (8 Hanover St., Manchester, 232-3751, snhhg.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Thirsty Moose (795 Elm St., Manchester, thirstymoosetaphouse.com/Manchester) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Thirsty Moose (21 Congress St., Portsmouth, thirstymoosetaphouse.com/portsmouth) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Gate City Casino Lounge (55 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, thegatecitycasino.com) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Otto Pizzeria (110 Brewery Lane, Portsmouth, locations.ottoportland.com) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Empty Pint (17 Second St., Dover, emptypintbrewing.com) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Wing-Itz (603 Lafayette Road, Hampton, wing-itz.com) 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St. in Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) at 8 p.m.



## NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

### Hampton

**The Goat:** James Stark, 9 p.m.  
**L Street:** karaoke, 9 p.m.  
**Wally's:** Chris Gendron & Unleaded, 9 p.m.  
**Why:** Jonny Friday, 6:30 p.m.

### Henniker

**Henniker Brewing:** Chris Voss, 3 p.m.  
**Pats Peak:** Andrew North & the Rangers, 6 p.m.

### Hudson

**Luk's Bar:** Mikey G, 7 p.m.

### Kingston

**Saddle Up Saloon:** Cry Uncle, 8 p.m.

### Laconia

**405 Pub and Grill:** Andrea Paquin, 7 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

### Londonderry

**Coach Stop:** Justin Jordan, 6 p.m.

### Manchester

**Backyard Brewery:** Justin Cohn, 6 p.m.  
**Bonfire:** Lexi James, 7 p.m.  
**Derryfield:** Stolen Mojo, 8 p.m.  
**Foundry:** Ken Budka, 6 p.m.  
**Fratello's:** Eddie Sands, 6 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.  
**The Hill:** Jamie Hughes, 5:30 p.m.  
**Shaskeen:** Rap Night, 9 p.m.  
**Strange Brew:** Soup du Jour, 9 p.m.

### Meredith

**Twin Barns:** Jack Ancora, 5 p.m.

### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Paul Gornley, 6 p.m.

### Milford

**Brickhouse:** Off the Record, 8 p.m.

### Nashua

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

### New Boston

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

### Newbury

**Goosefeathers Pub:** The 603s, 3 p.m.

### Pembroke

**Pembroke City Limits:** Mr. Charlie, 3 p.m.; Georgie's Jam Night, 7 p.m.

### Portsmouth

**Gas Light:** Lewis Goodwin, 9:30 p.m.  
**The Goat:** Mike Jetti, 9 p.m.  
**Mojo's:** Michael Troy Band, 7 p.m.  
**Thirsty Moose:** Sweep the Leg, 9:30 p.m.

### Salem

**Dreo:** Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.

### Sanbornton

**Steele Hill Resort:** Everett Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

### Seabrook

**Red's:** Ignite Band, 8 p.m.

### Sunday, Feb. 23

#### Barrington

**Nippo Lake Restaurant:** Lunch at the Dump, 6 p.m.

#### Bedford

**Copper Door:** Lilly Innella, 11 a.m.

#### Brookline

**Alamo:** Henry LaLiberte, 6 p.m.

#### Hampton

**L Street:** Karaoke, 9 p.m.

### Hudson

**Lynn's 102:** Wooden Soul, 4 p.m.

### Jaffrey

**Park Theatre:** The Grateful Dads of Jaffrey, 1 p.m.

### Laconia

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

### Manchester

**The Goat:** Mike Jetti, 10 a.m.  
**Strange Brew:** One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

### Milford

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

### Nashua

**Spyglass:** Benjamin Harris, 2 p.m.

### Newbury

**Goosefeathers Pub:** Brad Myrick Duo, 2 p.m.

### Pembroke

**Pembroke City Limits:** Sunday Blues with Arthur James, 2 p.m.

### Portsmouth

**The Goat:** James Stark, 9 p.m.

### Salem

**Copper Door:** Steve Aubert, 11 a.m.

### Monday, Feb. 24

#### 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, 6 p.m.

### Manchester

**Fratello's:** Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.  
**The Goat:** 6, 7 p.m.03 Line Dancing.  
**Salona:** music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

### Merrimack

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

### Nashua

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

### Portsmouth

**The Goat:** Dana Breatly, 9 p.m.  
**Press Room:** open DJ Decks w/ DJ Chad Banks, 8 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 25

#### Concord

**Barley House:** Irish session, 6 p.m.  
**Hermanos:** Paul Bourgelais, 6:30 p.m.  
**Tandy's:** open mic, 8 p.m.

### Hampton

**L Street:** Karaoke, 9 p.m.

### Manchester

**Fratello's:** Stephen Decuire,

5:30 p.m.

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

### Merrimack

**Homestead:** Jeff Mrozek, 5:30 p.m.

### Nashua

**Spyglass:** Jae Mannion, 5 p.m.

### Portsmouth

**The Goat:** Isaiah Bennett, 9 p.m.  
**Press Room:** Soggy Po' Boys, 9 p.m.

### Rochester

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

### Seabrook

**Backyard Burgers:** music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.  
**Red's:** Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Feb. 26

#### Concord

**Hermanos:** Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.  
**Tandy's:** karaoke, 8 p.m.  
**Uno Pizzeria:** Chris Lester, 6 p.m.

### Derry

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

### Hampton

**L Street:** Karaoke, 9 p.m.

### Kingston

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

### Manchester

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

### Merrimack

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

### Milford

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

### Portsmouth

**Press Room:** Deer Isle w/ Coyote Smoke, 8 p.m.

### Seabrook

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



## JUST WHAT YOU NEEDED

The Cars were one of the leading lights of the Boston music scene, known for their sleek, retro-futuristic sound and witty lyrics. The Boston-based quintet **Panorama** brings the music of the Cars to the stage for fans who didn't get a chance to see them the first time. They return to the Rex (23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org) on Saturday, February 22, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 plus fees.

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 25

a phlebotomist on her first day, Keyla Monterrosa Mejia as an unsympathetic payday loan office) together into something that has moments of real heart. **B** *In theaters and available for rent or purchase.*

### **Dog Man (PG)**

**“Supa cop” Dog Man captures and recaptures and recaptures again the villainous cat Petey in *Dog Man*, a brightly-colored animated movie based on the graphic novels by Dav Pilkey.**

Dog Man (who doesn't talk but Peter Hastings provides the Dog Man noises) is born when the head of a very smart police dog is sewn onto the body of a not-smart police man with top-notch martial arts

skills after both are injured in an explosion. Now containing the best attributes of both man and dog, Dog Man becomes a hero — making friends with kids, playing piano for old people, generally solving crimes and capturing Petey (voice of Pete Davidson). Capturing Petey a lot because this super smart cat keeps escaping from cat jail. Eventually, Petey's many escapes get the mayor (voice of Cheri Oteri) so mad that she demands that the police chief (voice of Lil Rel Howery) kick Dog Man off the case. Dog Man is mad he can't go after Petey but he accepts the assignment to keep an eye on Flippy (voice of Ricky Gervais), an evil fish who is dead and definitely not coming back to life unless someone exposed him to Living Spray at the Living Spray Factory and who would do that, that's just crazy talk.

Meanwhile, Petey, after having a falling out with his assistant who wants to be paid in money rather than bottle caps or chocolate coins, decides to make his own assistant by cloning himself. He didn't quite realize, however, that one of the steps of cloning was to wait 18 years until the clone matured into an adult, which is how Petey ends up with Li'l Petey (voice of Lucas Hopkins Calderon), an adorable, adoring kitty version of himself who calls him Papa.

As with the Pilkey books, the movie is humor-rich, with smart visuals that have a hand-drawn askew-ness and clever written elements like spelled-as-spoken words such as “supa” and “OhKay” that all fit with *Dog Man's* existence as a comic book by kids George and Harold, the main characters of *Captain Underpants*. Also

like the books, the movie has moments of real heart, such as in Petey's relationship with Li'l Petey, which is strongly impacted by his own difficult relationship with his father (voice of Stephen Root). This is the kind of story where buildings come alive and turn into lumbering monsters, one of which farts, but also where a character considers the harms of generational trauma and how to break the cycle. But don't worry, the movie accomplishes its emotional tasks without losing the kid audience! The movie does all its smart emotional stuff under the cover of robots like 80HD and a series of inventions called the “Somethingerother 2000” and pratfalls and dog face licks and just general silliness that don't slow down the things that keep kids engaged. **A** *In theaters.* 🍷



**Concerts**

**Venues**

**Andres Institute of Art** 16 Route 13, Brookline, andresinstitute.org  
**Bank of NH Stage in Concord** 16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com  
**Button Factory Stage** 99 Islington St., Portsmouth, portsmouthhthtickets.com  
**The CAKE Theatre** 12 Veterans Square, Laconia, 677-6360, thecake-theatre.com  
**Capitol Center for the Arts** Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com  
**Colonial Theatre** 609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, colonial-laconia.com  
**Concord City Auditorium** 2 Prince St., Concord, theaudi.org  
**Dana Center** Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, tickets.anselm.edu  
**The Flying Goose** 40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com  
**The Flying Monkey** 39 Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com  
**Franklin Opera House** 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, franklinoperahouse.org  
**Fulchino Vineyard** 187 Pine Hill Road, Hollis, 438-5984, fulchinovineyard.com  
**Goosefeathers Pub** 1298 Route 103, Newbury, mountsunapee.com  
**Hermit Woods Winery** 72 Main St., Meredith, hermitwoods.com  
**Jewel Music Venue** 61 Canal St., Manchester, 819-9336, jewelmusicvenue.com  
**Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club** 135 Congress St., Portsmouth, 888-603-JAZZ, jimmysoncongress.com  
**LaBelle Winery** 345 Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinery.com  
**LaBelle Winery Derry** 14 Route 111, Derry, 672-9898, labellewinery.com  
**Lakeport Opera House** 781

Union Ave., Laconia, 519-7506, lakeportopera.com  
**Liveway at Sunapee Harbor** 58 Main St., Sunapee, nhmusiccollective.com  
**The Majestic Theatre** 880 Page St., Manchester, 669-7469, majestictheatre.net  
**Milk St. Studios** 6 Milk St., Dover, 568-7836, milkststudios.com  
**The Music Hall** 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org  
**The Music Hall Lounge** 131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusic-hall.org  
**Nashua Center for the Arts** 201 Main St., Nashua, 800-657-8774, nashuacenterforthearts.com  
**Palace Theatre** 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org  
**Pembroke City Limits** 134 Main St., Pembroke, pembrokecitylimits.com  
**Press Room** 77 Daniel St., Portsmouth, 431-5186, press-roomnh.com  
**Rex Theatre** 23 Amherst St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org  
**Rochester Opera House** 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com  
**NHU Arena** 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, snhuarena.com  
**Stone Church** 5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com  
**3S Artspace** 319 Vaughan St., Portsmouth, 766-3330, 3sarts.org  
**Tupelo Music Hall** 10 A St., Derry, 437-5100, tupelomusic-hall.com  
**The Word Barn** 66 Newfields Road, Exeter, 244-0202, theword-barn.com

**Shows**

• **Metta Quintet** Thursday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m., Chubb Theatre  
 • **Trade** Thursday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods

• **Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy** Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m., Palace  
 • **Joss Stone** Thursday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts  
 • **Harvest & Rust** (Neil Young tribute) Thursday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry  
 • **Dan Fallon Band** Thursday, Feb. 20, 8 p.m., Stone Church  
 • **Diaspora Radio: Parallel Lines, Blondie** Thursday, Feb. 20, 9 p.m., Press Room  
 • **Who's Bad** (Michael Jackson tribute) Friday, Feb. 21, through Sunday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., Palace  
 • **Jim Tyrell** Friday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits  
 • **Ward Hayden & the Outliers** Friday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m., Rex  
 • **Tommy Castro and the Painkillers** Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's  
 • **Lynch Mob** Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Tupelo  
 • **Balacava/Spirit Ghost** Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Press Room  
 • **The Warren Haynes Band** Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Chubb Theatre  
 • **Vance Gilbert** Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge  
 • **North Village/Truck Stop Messiah** Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Stone Church  
 • **Condition/Black Vinegar/The Saturn Cycle** Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., Button Factory  
 • **Wolfman Jack** (Grateful Dead tribute) Friday, Feb. 21, 8 p.m., BNH Stage  
 • **Ill Bill with DJ Eclipse** Friday, Feb. 21, 9 p.m., Jewel  
 • **The 603s** Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m., Goosefeathers  
 • **Chris O'Neill & Peter Prince** Saturday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., Stone Church  
 • **Lee & Dr. G./Catwolf** Saturday, Feb. 22, 6:30 p.m., Milk St. Studios  
 • **Cash Unchained** (Johnny Cash tribute) Saturday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m., BNH Stage  
 • **Panorama** (Cars tribute) Sat-



**FREE FALLIN'**

**Damn the Torpedoes** A Tribute to Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers will come to the Tupelo Music Hall (10 A St. in Derry; tupelomusic-hall.com) on Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$39.



**TOTALLY RELATABLE**

Get ready to laugh till it hurts with **Anthony Rodia**, whose observational humor and self-deprecating comedy have made him a hit with an ever-growing fanbase. Catch this rising star at the Colonial (609 Main St., Laconia, 800-657-8774, coloniallaconia.com) on Friday, Feb. 21, at 8 p.m. Tickets range from \$39 to \$59, plus fees.

urday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., Rex  
 • **Mike Zito** Saturday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's  
 • **Little Lies** (Fleetwood Mac tribute) Saturday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey  
 • **Damn the Torpedoes** (Tom Petty tribute) Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Tupelo  
 • **Beginnings** (Chicago tribute) Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Colonial  
 • **Skunk Sessions** Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Stone Church  
 • **While My Guitar Gently Weeps** (Beatles tribute) Saturday, Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Button Factory  
 • **The Murphy Beds** Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m., Rex  
 • **Brad Myrick Duo** Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m., Goosefeathers  
 • **Me2 Orchestra** Sunday, Feb. 23, 3 p.m., Chubb Theatre  
 • **Cowboy Junkies** Sunday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., Music Hall  
 • **Man in Black** (Johnny Cash tribute) Sunday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts  
 • **Julie Rhodes** Monday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Jimmy's  
 • **Johnny Cash's Birthday Bash with Scott Moreau** Wednesday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge  
 • **Songwriter Roundup with Katie Dobbins and Peter Downing** Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods  
 • **Hometown Eulogy** Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits  
 • **Los Lobos** Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall  
 • **Deer Isle/Coyote Smoke** Wednesday, Feb. 26, 8 p.m., Press Room  
 • **Both Sides Now** (Joni Mitchell & Leonard Cohen tribute) Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge  
 • **Solas** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall  
 • **Orleans** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., BNH Stage  
 • **Ellis Paul** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose  
 • **Eli "Paperboy" Reid** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's  
 • **Emerson, Lake & Palmer** Thursday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m., Tupelo  
 • **Rock Country Nights** (country music tribute) Thursday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry  
 • **Mariee Siou** Friday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m., Press Room  
 • **Kat Edmonson** Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Jimmy's

◀ CONTINUED FROM PG 6  
 an elevated blood level of lead.... It's something we're pretty active with. Those are actually federal grants, so it's not a loan....

**Do you all have any events or new programs coming up?**

We often send out, like TEFRA, notices of public hearing for certain places where we're developing. I know that we had one in the rail yard. We also have an upcoming home ownership conference, which is coming in three weeks. That is going to be talking to Realtors and professionals and the bank industry about the current state of single-family home ownership and what tools are at their disposal

in order to make home ownership possible, especially in an area of high demand but low supply. One thing that I think that has been really of note is that there's a new Opioid Use Disorder Supportive Housing Capital Program. We launched this new initiative to provide stable housing for people who have been impacted by opioid use disorder. So there's a notice of funding opportunity. We still have applications all the way until March 11.

**Is there anything else you'd like to mention about New Hampshire Housing that I haven't asked you about?**

One of the other things that is lesser-known in our various divisions is from our research and advocacy wing. We look

into the way that local municipalities and citizens can find ways to tackle housing challenges. So most recently on Feb. 7 we released a case study. We had a housing opportunity planning program where we gave grants to a lot of local municipal communities and we had case studies about people who had used those funds, Bethlehem, Berlin, Canterbury, Keene, Plymouth, there's quite a few. It shows how they're addressing housing challenges through changes to their zoning, their planning ideas, and actually updating their master plans to deal with innovative housing solutions. That report is actually currently up and available on our website. It's pretty awesome to see some of the innovative ways people have done

things. For example, Keene, they created a cottage court overlay district, which is encouraging more pedestrian-friendly housing downtown. Canterbury, for example, made a farmstead design alternative for more flexibility through a view process about what's required in a property and offered design incentives to protect the towns for people who have often been worried about the rural character or something like the open space. Perhaps there's other ways to figure out the actual design of housing to not lose the character but still provide it for a population that increasingly has to move out in order to find new opportunities. —Zachary Lewis 🌈



# You're gonna puzzle far, kid

**Across**

1. Tracey Thorn 'At Piccadilly Station \_\_\_ Down & Wept'
5. Brian Setzer 'Jump Jive An' \_\_\_
9. Blues mainstay Taj
14. 'Si No Te Hubieras Ido' #1 Mexican band
15. Record label founded in '55
16. Joe Walsh '\_\_\_ Of Illusion'
17. Drummer Van Halen
18. Beatles '\_\_\_ Leaving Home'
19. The King
20. 'We're Not Gonna Take It' band and my first concert
23. Mick and Keith act like this sometimes
24. Offspring song that will hang you? (w/"The")
25. What backstage passes are covered with
30. '03 Ataris album '\_\_\_, Astoria'
31. 'Face The Music' Boston spinoff
32. Gordon of Violent Femmes
36. Robbie Williams '97 album 'Life Thru \_\_\_'
37. 'Holy Diver' band
38. Pay tribute to
39. Female 'Big' singer Gray
40. US Congress funded interna-

tional broadcaster

41. '09 Rihanna album for 17+ crowd?
42. Greg Dulli 'Amber \_\_\_'
44. GnR "Shed \_\_\_ 'cause I'm missing you"
47. James of Smashing Pumpkins
48. '08 Offspring #1 'You're \_\_\_'
54. McCready & Gordon
55. Kid Rock song for ending a prayer?
56. Jeff Buckley "Maybe there's \_\_\_ above"
58. Justin Timberlake '\_\_\_ A River'
59. Part of 'Only By The Night' band, w/Kings Of
60. R&B Singer Braxton
61. 'Underwhelmed' Canadians
62. '92 musical \_\_\_ Karenina
63. Beyoncé covered this James

Out'

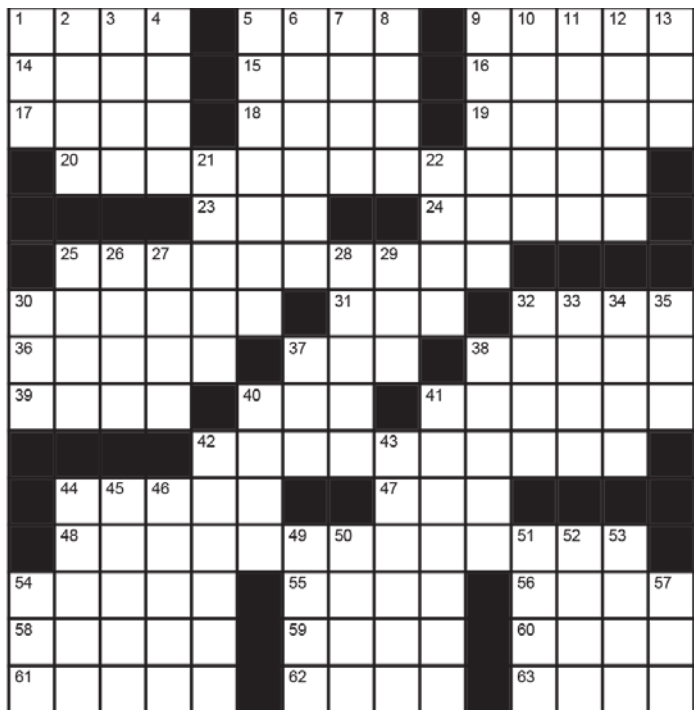
13. Guitar pioneer/maker Paul
21. '11 Buffalo Tom album to play against the "shirts"
22. Rick Springfield saw the Tin Man on 'Living \_\_\_'
25. Kinks "And in a dark brown voice she said" this name
26. Baldwin in musical South Pacific
27. '68 smash "Here she come down say \_\_\_"
28. 3-note chord
29. Norah Jones 'What Am \_\_\_ You?'
30. 'Twistin' The Night Away' Cooke
32. Siouxie & The Banshees genre
33. Albums want to turn \_\_\_ profit
34. Nonverbal stage "okays"
35. Lynyrd Skynyrd song about "outlaws, renegades, rebels" (abbr)
37. Vancouver punks that died on the way to the hospital?
38. 'There's Only One Way To Rock' Sammy
40. Pink Floyd song off 'The Wall' about a girl
41. 'Rude Boy' R&B singer
42. Beck's last name
43. '03 Puddle Of Mudd album '\_\_\_ Display'
44. Jill Sobule 'I Kissed \_\_\_'
45. Deep Purple "My woman from" this Japanese capital
46. '99 Blink-182 album '\_\_\_ Of The State'
49. Big bash
50. '12 Antestor album about sin-

ister clouds?

51. 'Don't Look Away' singer Voegele
52. Offspring "Anytime I want \_\_\_ a right to sing"
53. George Thorogood 'If You \_\_\_ Start Drinkin'
54. Show hosts (abbr)
57. Meg's Warped tour sister

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Todd's books are available on Amazon.



**Down**

1. Offspring "\_\_\_ product of my environment"
2. Half of 'Seether' band, w/Veruca
3. Don Henley "In \_\_\_ York minute"
4. Joni Mitchell hailed a 'Big Yellow' one
5. '01 Default hit '\_\_\_ My Time'
6. '82 Who song about a girl
7. A Day To Remember 'NJ Legion \_\_\_ Tea'
8. Tour red ink amount that's not a gain
9. 'Hallucinogenics' Matt
10. Offspring "Bring us \_\_\_ our knees"
11. Howlin' Pelle Almqvist band
12. George Strait '\_\_\_ I Can't Put

**NITE SUDOKU**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. See last week's puzzle answers on pg 33.

**King Classic Sudoku**

**Puzzle A**

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

Difficulty: ★

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**King Classic Sudoku**

**Puzzle B**

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

Difficulty: ★★

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**King Classic Sudoku**

**Puzzle C**

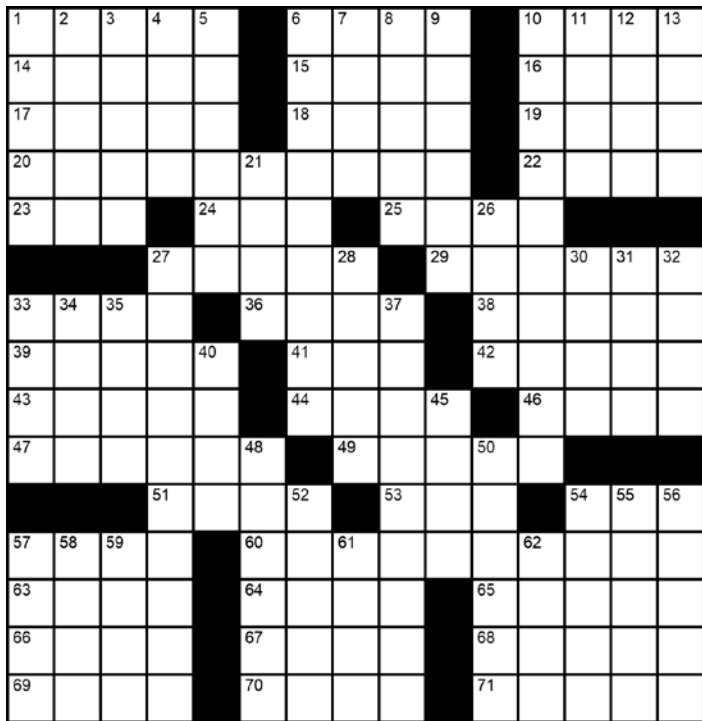
		7		2				1
5		4		3				
					7			5 8
7		3	5	1				
2	5	1			8	6		7
	6	8				5		
		5			2			8
	1	6						7 3
3	4							

Difficulty: ★★★

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# “Et Al” – some extra stuff.



- 63. Lean and tall
- 64. Former Missouri Congresswoman Bush
- 65. Company behind “Space Invaders” and “Bubble Bobble”
- 66. Remote button
- 67. Reunion attendee
- 68. Acquired relative
- 69. Coin-op opening
- 70. Intense fury
- 71. Honeycomb units

**Down**

- 1. Twitch
- 2. Pushes to the limit
- 3. Held another meeting
- 4. Affirm with certainty
- 5. Home beverage center
- 6. Baby, for instance
- 7. Walrus feature
- 8. Add to a website, as a video
- 9. Repeated phrase
- 10. The average cricket player?
- 11. Cookie with a limited-edition Post Malone flavor
- 12. Grayish earth tone
- 13. Knitting store supply
- 21. Fairy tale’s second word
- 26. Author Kingsley
- 27. Cold-weather wear that’ll help you get off the ground?
- 28. Poker-faced
- 30. Old phone feature
- 31. Collectors’ completions
- 32. Ash, e.g.
- 33. Bounty hunter Boba

**Across**

- 1. Drive-thru drink extra
- 6. Goblet piece
- 10. Baby kangaroo
- 14. Pet problem?
- 15. Adidas rival
- 16. Killer whale
- 17. Valuable item
- 18. Novel-identifying digits
- 19. Mister, in Münster
- 20. Pail exclusively for celebrities?
- 22. Mad Libs prompt
- 23. Denver clock reading
- 24. Kong, e.g.
- 25. Tournament seeding
- 27. Pond dwellers
- 29. Encompassed by
- 33. Roll up
- 36. “Nick at \_\_\_”
- 38. More wintry
- 39. German attack craft of WWII
- 41. Swanson on “Parks & Recreation”
- 42. Play in the NHL
- 43. Metronome measurement
- 44. Italian beach resort

- 46. “What \_\_\_ can I do?”
- 47. Sneaky kind of horse?
- 49. One of Santa’s reindeer
- 51. Savage of “MythBusters”
- 53. Office machine still used by some businesses
- 54. Text messaging letters
- 57. On a grand scale
- 60. Squishy space shuttle propeller?

- 34. Over, in Hanover
- 35. Former Cowboys quarterback Tony
- 37. Theoretical stopping point
- 40. Mario Kart character
- 45. “The Wire” role
- 48. Org. with pit workers
- 50. Rare and unusual
- 52. Slangy cash
- 54. Expertise
- 55. Mercury, for one
- 56. Puts in the overhead
- 57. Shade providers
- 58. Singer Anka
- 59. Engaged by
- 61. 1960s fad dance
- 62. Sugar source

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THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

**EASY**

2 ÷	6 ×	1 -	1
			2 -
3		6 +	
3 -			

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**CHALLENGING**

17 +	12 ×		5 -		9 +
		8 +	2 ÷		
	5 -		60 ×		
3				11 +	2 ÷
6 +	36 ×		8 +		
				3 ÷	

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12-5-24

**RULES**

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

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

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

**PREVIOUS ANSWERS**

2 ÷	24 ×		8 +
2	3	4	1
1	2	1 -	3
4	1	2	3
48 ×	1	2 ÷	
4	1	2	3
3	4	1	2

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5 -	11 +	12 +	3 +	1	36 ×
6	5	4	2	1	3
1	6	5	3	4	2
60 ×	2 ÷	10 ×			
4	1	2	5	3	6
3	2	6	4	5	1
24 ×	11 +		6 +		
5	3	1	6	2	4
2	4	3	1	6	5

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## WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

**Find and Circle...**

- Six European capitals  □ □ □ □ □
- Three months  □ □
- Three words for a huge home  □ □ □
- Two things commonly brushed  □ □
- Number of moons orbiting Venus  □

A Last Week's Answers: LINGUINE FUSILLI RAVIOLI PENNE ZITI / QUAIN SEEING QUAIL ADIEU GOOEY / METHANE OXYGEN HELIUM / ASIA / WEST

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12/12

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

**Jonesin' answer from pg 32 of 2/13**





**SIGNS OF LIFE**

All quotes are from *The Preservation Kitchen*, by Paul Virant, born Feb. 25, 1970, with Kate Leahy.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20)** *In the early days, I started slowly, a few cases of tomatoes and a couple of jams. But ... more ideas came flooding in. Creativity is sparked.*

**Aries (March 21 – April 19)** *If you tasted sorrel blindfolded, you'd be excused if you thought that someone had slipped you lemon-infused spinach. Who would do that?*

**Taurus (April 20 – May 20)** *The soul of my kitchen ... hovers one floor above, contained within a narrow storage room lined with aluminum shelves. ... Packed with jars of pickles, jams, sauerkrauts, and other experiments in preserving, these shelves radiate with possibility. Ah, pickles.*

**Gemini (May 21 – June 20)** *Spring arrives slowly in Chicago. ... This is a restless time for chefs. By March, we've grown weary of hard winter squashes and gnarled, mature root vegetables, yet we still have to wait a month or two before spring produce really cuts loose. Maybe occupy your time building a new Lego set.*

**Cancer (June 21 – July 22)** *There are two steps in this recipe: roasting and pickling. Do the steps in the right order.*

**Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22)** *Having a variety of pickles on hand challenges me to use them in ways I hadn't thought of before. Challenge accepted?*

**Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)** *Pickled snow peas are a fine stand-in for summer beans. And maybe vice versa.*

**Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)** *This jam takes advan-*

*tage of two things that the Midwest has in abundance: beer and rhubarb. Might as well use 'em.*

**Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)** *Salted lemon, fresh mint, and fennel shake up wholesome wheat berries. Did the berries need shaking up?*

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)** *With casual menus, I like to offer vegetable side dishes that can be left on the table for nibbling while the rest of the meal comes together. Keep it casual.*

**Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)** *The dishes on the menu ... can be mixed and matched to suit the event. Mix here, match there.*

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)** *With apologies to Brussels sprouts sauerkraut, not all preserves are meant to make it into a cocktail. And that's OK.*

**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 it is country & capital city (9)	_____
2 Bob Marley's home country (7)	_____
3 island south of Turkey (6)	_____
4 largest Caribbean island (4)	_____
5 where Reykjavik is capital (7)	_____
6 world's 4th-largest island (10)	_____
7 island once known as Formosa (6)	_____

AI	CU	CY	CAR	ORE
DAG	TAI	SIN	IC	BA
US	AS	JAM	EL	AND
CA	GAP	WAN	MA	PR

Last Week's Answers: 1. OHIO 2. ONESELF 3. AUBERGE 4. ONEFOLD 5. OPENING 6. ONESIE 7. OHMAGE

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**Sudoku Answers from pg 31 of 2/13**

**Puzzle A**

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

Difficulty: ★ 1/27

**Puzzle B**

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

Difficulty: ★★ 1/28

**Puzzle C**

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 1/30



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### Happy Valentine's Day!

Domino's Pizza UK has launched its first-ever eau de toilette, Eau de Passion, which is inspired by its Pepperoni Passion pizza and features notes of spice, pepper and a woody, warm base, the New York Post reported. The scent's bottle is shaped like a slice of pizza, and the cologne is free from Domino's website if you're lucky enough to be chosen to receive one. British star Luke Debono, who's promoting the scent, said it is "the perfect gift for passionate pizza-loving couples looking to spice things up this Valentine's Day." *NY Post, Feb. 10*

### Inexplicable

Law enforcement officers in South Holland, England, are stumped by a rash of pet cats returning to their homes with patches of missing fur, The Spalding and South Holland Voice reported on Feb. 12. The cats have apparently been shaved. "This behavior is completely unacceptable," said inspector Matt Dickinson. "The cats in question are someone's pet, part of their family." Evidently, it's not the first time the mysterious cat shaver has struck; two Facebook commenters said their cats had been shaved in past years. *Spalding and South Holland Voice, Feb. 12*

### Festival Fun

On Feb. 10 in Inazawa, Japan, more than 7,000 men wearing only loincloths participated in the Konomiya Naked Festival at a Shinto shrine, The Mainichi reported. The event, which has been held for more than 1,200 years on the 13th day of the first lunar month, features a "god-man" who is thought to carry away misfortune if you touch him. This year's "god-man" was 26-year-old Ryota Kato, who threw himself into the crowd as the men chanted and fought to touch him. About an hour later, he emerged from the crowd and entered the shrine. *The Mainichi, Feb. 12*

### It's Come to This

A manufacturer of fortune cookies contacted the owner of a Vietnamese restaurant in Sydney, Australia, to announce they would no longer fill her orders for custom messages that are offensive or contain expletives. 9News reported that Nahji Chu, owner of Lady Chu, ordered profanity-laced cookies for Valentine's Day. But after the manufacturer mistakenly sent some of Chu's cookies to fulfill another order, causing distress with that customer, they changed their policy. Chu wasn't happy: "If you're getting it mixed up with other restaurants, that's not my fault," she

said. Some of Chu's more PG-rated cookie messages include, "You are capable of great things. But all you do is look at your phone all day. You won't be that great sorry! #ladychu" and "The year of the snake bears good fortune! Your divorce is coming soon." She said she'll "take out the profanities and be creative" with her next order. *9News, Feb. 12*

### Awesome!

• When Loretta, a 104-year-old resident of the Avon Nursing Home in Geneseo, New York, was asked what she wanted for her birthday, she replied that she'd never seen the inside of a jail. So, WHAM-TV reported on Feb. 11, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office obliged, inviting her to the station and giving her a good look around, then celebrating with cake and coffee. Loretta paid back the favor by sharing some wisdom with Sheriff Thomas Dougherty: "Mind your business." *WHAM, Feb. 11*

• Officials in the Czech Republic had been planning to build a dam on the Klavava River for more than six years, Yahoo! News reported on Feb. 11, but were stymied by negotiations over land use. Instead, some industrious beavers solved the problem for them and saved taxpayers

\$1.2 million. "They built a wetland with pools and canals," said Bohumil Fiser of the Czech Nature Conservation Agency. "The area is roughly twice larger than planned. They do a brilliant job." *Yahoo! News, Feb. 11*

### Fish Story

It took Hayley Herzig, 22, of Van Dyne, Wisconsin, six years to harvest her first sturgeon, but when she did, it was newsworthy. WLUK-TV reported that on the first day of sturgeon-spearing season at Lake Winnebago, Feb. 8, Herzig landed a fish bigger than herself. The massive sturgeon weighed 180.5 pounds and was more than 79 inches long. "It was very exciting, did not feel real," she said. "I was in disbelief." She and her boyfriend buried the beast in the snow behind their house and plan to deep-fry or smoke it. "We're probably going to get a replica ... and hang it up in the house because it's ... a memory that'll never be forgotten," Herzig said. *WLUK, Feb. 11*

Sources according to [uexpress.com](http://uexpress.com). From the editors at Andrews McMeel Syndication. See [uexpress.com/contact](http://uexpress.com/contact)

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