

the Hippo

APRIL 3 - 9, 2025

SUPERFROG
P. 26

COMEDY THIS
WEEKEND P. 26

LOCAL NEWS, FOOD, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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APRIL 3 - 9, 2025
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ON THE COVER
10 It's a weekend of books, authors, comic books, kid books and more. In this week's cover Zachary Lewis talks to organizers for three Saturday events — the Derry Author Fest, the Exeter LitFest and the Old School Comics Show — and Sunday's Kids Con New England. On the cover are photos from (clockwise from the top left) the Exeter LitFest, Kids Con New England, the Old School Comic Show and the Derry Author Fest, all courtesy of the events.

ALSO ON THE COVER Michael Witthaus talks to members of the band Superfrog ahead of shows in Dover and Concord (page 26). And if you're looking for laughs, check out the Comedy This Week (also page 26) for a listing of live comedy shows this weekend and beyond. And on page 21, John Fladd finds out what's on the foraging menu for spring mushrooms.

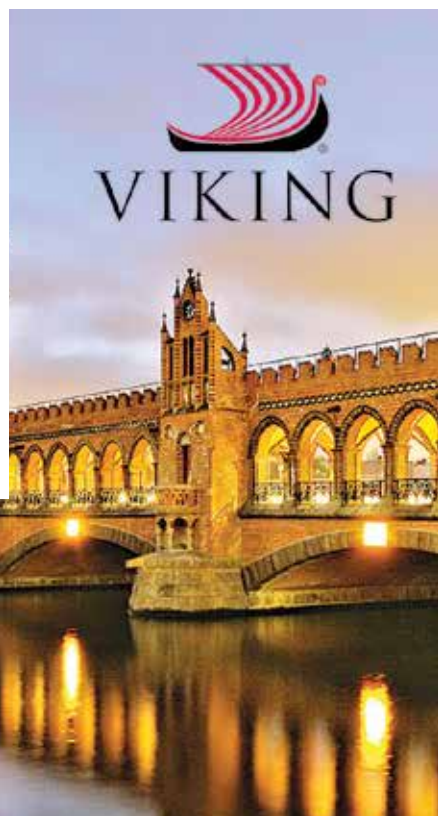
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6:00pm

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NEWS & NOTES

Eggs!

The peregrine falcons at the Brady Sullivan tower in downtown Manchester welcomed a second egg on March 27, according to a log recording action at the nest. This new speckled egg joins an egg laid a little more than five days earlier on March 22. You can watch the couple and their progress at the Peregrine cam at nhaudubon.org/education/birds-and-birding/peregrine-cam, where the New Hampshire Audubon offers three live views of the nest with support of Peregrine Networks and Brady Sullivan Properties, the website said.

NH literacy

The New Hampshire Department of Education has launched a survey to get community input about literacy education in the state, according to a press release. The "New Hampshire's Literacy Landscape Survey" asks to rate satisfaction in literacy education at local schools and about instruction in litera-

cy elements as well as what tools might be needed, according to the survey, which is available at education.nh.gov. (Find the March 31 press release about the survey for the link.) The survey will close on June 3, the release said. "As part of the state's commitment to improving literacy outcomes for all students, NHED is conducting this needs assessment survey to identify the most pressing needs and opportunities to achieve the goals outlined in the creation of the State Literacy Plan," the release said.

Sustainability

The Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley (56 Mont Vernon St., Milford) will hold the 2025 Souhegan Sustainability Fair on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the local food pantry SHARE, according to a press release. The fair will feature live music, food, a guided hike, a story walk, kids crafts, 34 exhibits, presenta-

tions and more, according to the release. Admission is free.

Juneteenth event

The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire will hold a discussion on Ona Marie Judge, the woman who eventually settled in New Hampshire after escaping enslavement at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester on Thursday, June 12, at 5:30 p.m., according to a press release from the Black Heritage Trail. Judge, the focus of the book *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, escaped to Portsmouth, and the event will include a dramatic reading of her 1845 interview published in *The Granite Freeman*, the release said. New Hampshire actress Sandi Clarke Kaddy will perform as Ona Judge, after which Armstrong Dunbar will discuss Judge's story, the release said. Admission is free; reserve a spot at blackheritagetrailnh.org or by calling 570-8469.

The artist reception for "Revive, Renew, Reconnect," an art exhibit from Concord-based Art Alley Cats (artalleycats.com) and DIY Craft & Thrift (diycraftandthrift.com) at Kimball Jenkins (266 N. Main St., **Concord**, kimballjenkins.com), will be on Saturday, April 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. The event was originally scheduled last weekend but was postponed due to weather.

The Evolution Expo, with the tagline "mind, body & spirit," will be held Sunday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Grappone Conference Center, 70 Constitution Ave. in **Concord**, and will feature exhibitors, demonstrations, workshops and more, according to holisticnh.org/evolution-expo, where tickets are free (admission costs \$10 at the door).

Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom (169 Ocean Blvd., **Hampton Beach**, casinoballroom.com) will kick off its new season with Experience Hendrix (a multi-artist show featuring Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Christone Kingfish Ingram, Zakk Wylde, Eric Johnson, Devon Allman and Samantha Fish) on Thursday, April 3, at 8 p.m. and Melissa Etheridge on Sunday, April 6, at 8 p.m.

The Milford Garden Club will hold a program on purple martins, birds native to North America, featuring Pamela D. Hunt, a biologist for avian conservation at the New Hampshire Audubon, on Monday, April 14, at 10:30 a.m. at the First Congregational Church Parish House, 10 Union St. in **Milford**. The meeting is free and open to the public.



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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

The busy week that was



The Big Story – The Final Four: When Florida meets Auburn and Duke faces Houston Saturday it will be the first all 1-seeds Men's Basketball Final Four since 2008.

But the question is, does having the so-called best teams there make for a better tournament than one with a couple of Cinderella stories in the mix? Personally, I'd rather we had UConn there trying to win a third straight title because that would've been historic. But sadly that didn't happen. Either way the fun starts from San Antonio on Saturday and ends Monday with a new champ.

Sports 101: How many of the top five individual scorers in the NCAA Basketball Championship game can you name? Hint: The point totals are 44, 42, 41, 37, 35 and have all happened since 1965.

News Item – Red Sox Update: (1) They won the opener behind a two-homer game from **Wilyer Abreu**, then lost three straight to leave Texas 1-3. (2) **Kristian Campbell** became the first of their vaunted prospects to make the dance when he was the starting second baseman on opening day. He had five hits in his first four games, including his first big-league homer, and started in left field on Sunday. (3) With Campbell set at second, it set in motion the inevitable moves of **Alex Bregman** to third and **Raffy Devers** to DH. (4) **Garrett Crochet** got off with a decent but not anything special 5.1 innings pitched in the opener when he whiffed four and gave up five hits and two earned runs.

News Item – Good Move, Patriots: Given he'll be 32 during the season and coming off a torn ACL, signing **Stefon Diggs** for three years and \$26 million guaranteed is a gamble. And that's before getting to his divaness. But, while he's likely past his peak, if in good health he's better than anyone they have and a possible 1,000-yard receiver if he's 85% of what he was in Buffalo. Plus now they don't have to force it on draft night trying to find a receiver like they did while badly missing last year in Round 2.

The Numbers:

6 – record number of consecutive opening days Baltimore's new left fielder **Tyler O'Neill** has homered after hitting a three-run bomb vs. Toronto this year.

7 – players/coaches ejected after a brawl between the T-Wolves and Pistons on Sunday.

19 – different players to start at third base for the San Francisco Giants in their last 19 openers.

... Of the Week Awards

Thumbs Down – JuJu Watkins: Sad to see the USC star go down in a win over Mississippi State with a torn ACL. First because of the injury, and because it denies us seeing the highly anticipated head-to-head battle of women's hoops' two best players between JuJu and UConn's **Paige Bueckers** later tonight (Monday). Boo.

Why Can't We Get Guys Like That Award – Mookie Betts: After missing virtually all of spring training, the one that got away hit two homers including the 10th-inning walk-off that made the Dodgers 8-5 winners in their home opener vs. Detroit.

Random Thoughts:

Has any season started with Red Sox Nation really excited to see a season opener started by a guy who was 6-12 the year before as **Garrett Crochet** was in Chicago?

Here's a tip for the Patriots' drafting team. **Justin Jefferson, Ja'Marr Chase, Brian Thomas, Odell Beckham Jr.** and others all came out of LSU. So if they are looking to draft a receiver, maybe they should hire the guy who found them for LSU to be in charge of drafting wideouts for the Patriots.

Sports 101 Answer: The Top 5 championship game scorers are **Bill Walton** (44 vs. Memphis State, 1973), **Gail Goodrich** (42 for UCLA vs. Michigan, 1965), **Goose Givens** (41 for Kentucky over Duke, 1978), **Lew Alcindor** (37 for UCLA vs. Purdue, 1969) and **John Morton** (35 for Seton Hall in loss to Michigan, 1989).

Final Thought – A Little History – George Foreman: Never has anyone had a bigger personality transplant than the two-time heavyweight champ, who died last week at 76. He went from a sullen, brooding Olympic gold medal winner in 1968 to the jovial, laugh-a-minute TV pitch man he was after returning from a 10-year retirement to win back the crown. It was an eventful career where arguably boxing's most punishing puncher twice beat **Joe Frazier** in fights spiced with many knockdowns. He took the title from Frazier in the first one, with it immortalized by **Howard Cosell's** great all-time call, "DOWN GOES FRAZIER! DOWN GOES FRAZIER!" Over in two rounds after six knockdowns. The second was a little longer but just as brutal. Then came the Rumble in the Jungle when he lost the title to **Muhammad Ali's** famed rope-a-dope strategy as he won back his title in 1974. Then came the first retirement and what can only be described as the amazing comeback. RIP, big fella.

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QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Pay gap

According to a March 24 report by the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute (nhfpi.org), women in New Hampshire still make less than their male counterparts. “Nationally, women earned 83 percent of what men earned in 2023,” the report read, “according to the most recently available data from the U.S. Census Bureau. In New Hampshire, women working full-time, year-round, earned 76 percent of what men earned. Of the 25 occupational categories described in 2023 New Hampshire Employment Security data, there were only three in which women had higher median earnings than men”

QOL score: -1

Comment: To read the report in its entirety, including its methodology, visit nhfpi.org/blog.

Visitor to the casino goes owl-in

As reported in a March 28 online article on Boston.com, the Gate City Casino in Nashua had an unexpected visitor last Tuesday, a female barred owl. According to the article, “local rescuers were unable to immediately remove the bird, so casino guests watched as the owl slept perched on a television.” The story quoted the casino’s marketing manager, Mark Martino, who “said the owl, who was named ‘Jack Pots’ by the casino’s security team, seemed slightly bothered by all the noise.” It wasn’t until the next day that a local animal rescue organization, Wings of the Dawn, was able to catch and remove “Ms. Pots.”

QOL score: +1

Comment: Maria Colby, director of Wings of the Dawn Rehabilitation Center, said the owl was ready to leave by the time she got there. “I netted it, and it took all of like 10 seconds to do,” she was quoted by Boston.com. “[She was] shaking” and seemed “shell-shocked. It was obviously a traumatic experience for the bird.” After two days of observation, the owl was released back into the wild.

Not as clean as it looks

In a March 28 story, New Hampshire Public Radio reported that “almost 900 million gallons of untreated sewage flowed into the Merrimack River last year, 30% more than the usual overflows over the past 10 years.” Surprisingly, according to the Merrimack River Watershed Council, that is an improvement over the previous year. “It was a reduction from 2023 — the year of the state’s wettest summer on record — when about 2 billion gallons of sewage ran into the river.” According to the report, about half the sewage in 2024 came from Manchester and Nashua in New Hampshire and Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill in Massachusetts.

QOL score: -1

Comment: The culprit, according to the NHPR story, is an old design of the sewer system that allows it to overflow during rain storms.

QOL score last week: 61

Net change: -1

QOL this week: 60

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75

50



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Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth. Divide between glasses and enjoy.

Nutritional Information (optional ingredient not included):

Amount per serving: Calories 210; Total Fat 9 g; Saturated Fat 1 g; Cholesterol 15 mg; Sodium 50 mg; Carbohydrate 26 g; Dietary Fiber 5 g; Sugar 16 g; Added Sugar 0 g; Protein 10 g



THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS APRIL 3 AND BEYOND

Friday, April 4

The New Hampshire Fisher Cats open their season with a game tonight at Northeast Delta Dental Stadium in downtown Manchester, at 6:35 p.m. against the Binghamton Rumble Ponies. Fans attending tonight can get a magnetic schedule of the season to plan their baseball outings. On Saturday, April 5, the game starts at 4:05 p.m. and the Fisher Cats play as the Manchester Chicken Tenders for the night. The Sun-



day, April 6, game starts at 1:35 p.m. and the first 1,000 fans get a free fleece. See milb.com/new-hampshire for the game schedule, tickets and promotions.

Thursday, April 3

Gibson's Bookstore and the BNH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com) will host author **Katee Robert** to talk about the eighth book in their Dark Olympus series, *Sweet Obsession*, tonight at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$29 and include a copy of the book.

Thursday, April 3

Manchester True Collaborative will hold a grand opening for the organization's new community center, billed as the state's first-ever LGBTQIA+ community center, at 72 Concord St. in Manchester today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP at manchester-true.org.

Friday, April 4

Try samples and check out locally made items at the **Made in NH Expo** today from 1 to 7 p.m.; tomorrow, Saturday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel. Tickets cost \$8 for adults and \$7 for 65+; children under 14 get in free. See businessnhmagazine.com/events/made-in-nh-expo.

Friday, April 4

Catch the Palace Theatre's **Short Play Festival** at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St., Manchester, palacetheatre.org) today and tomorrow, Saturday, April 5. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. each night, featuring eight new plays a night, and tickets cost \$24.

Saturday, April 5

The Animal Rescue League of NH (545 Route 101, Bedford, 472-3647, rescueleague.org) will host a **24-hour Slumber "Paw"ty**, starting today. The National Shelter Slumber Pawty brings together shelters from across the nation (and beyond) to help raise funds and awareness for shelter pets. Visit shelterslumberpawty.com/event/Arlnh.

The Walker Lecture Series presents **"Before They Could Speak: Laurel & Hardy in the Silent Film Era,"** which features Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy silent films including *Two Tars* (1928), *The*

Wednesday, April 9

Save the Date! Saturday, April 12
The Friends of the Whipple Free Library will hold their **annual auction** on Saturday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at the Library (67 Mont Vernon Road, New Boston, 487-3391, whipplefreelibrary.org) From 6 to 7 p.m. there will be a silent auction, a raffle room, a treasure trove, light refreshments, and preview of items. Items can be donated to the library during open hours until April 10.

Finishing Touch (1928) and *You're Darn Tootin'* (1928), on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St.). See silentfilmlive-music.blogspot.com. All Walker Lectures are free and open to the public. 🐾



Egg-Citing Egg Hunt!



Children 2 to 12 will hunt for a dozen candy filled eggs that are prepackaged for them to bring home. Find the Easter Bunny and you will find the eggs.

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Asparagus and Goat Cheese Quiche	\$32.95

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Raspberry Glazed Lemon Loaf	\$8.95
Pecan and Date Orange Rugelach (4)	\$6.95
Raspberry Scone w/Lemon Glaze	\$4.25

THE CRUST & CRUMB

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WEEKEND OF BOOKS!

FIND AUTHOR FESTS, COMIC BOOKS AND BOOKS FOR KIDS AT EVENTS THIS WEEKEND



Kids Con NE. Photo courtesy of Emily Drouin.

Attention bookworms of all stripes! This weekend features book fun for everyone. At the Derry Author Fest and Exeter LitFest, hear authors discuss their works and process — and maybe even get some tips on putting your own stories on paper. At the Old School Comic Show in Concord, enjoy the rows of comic books and meet some comics creators. And the Kids Con New England has chapter books, graphic novels and comic books — and artists and authors — to help younger readers grow their enthusiasm for books. Looking for some new reads? Check out this weekend's many celebrations of stories, their creators and their loyal readers.

Derry Author Fest

Dive in to the craft of books

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

Erin Robinson is a genealogy and reference librarian at Derry Public Library (64 East Broadway, Derry) and has been part of the Derry Author Fest since its inception almost 10 years ago. This year's Fest, with the tagline "Community. Collaboration. Confidence," is happening on Saturday, April 5.

"It's a full-day lecture series," Robinson said. "The idea is that people who are interested in writing or illustrating can come and they can learn about the craft and business of writing."

Gibson's Bookstore will be providing an all-day book sale, and a door prize is being offered by New Hampshire Writers Project.

"We have a variety of different levels of writers that come to the program. Some are authors who've been published, some are writers who maybe published once and they're working on new projects, and some who've never been published. We try to get

an array of different levels," she said. Robinson is an author as well but publishes under the name Erin E.

Moulton. She recently came out with a fun guide on exploring cemeteries called *The Beginner's Guide to Cemetery Sleuthing*.

Laura Knoy is the keynote speaker of the day. Knoy is a journalist who founded and was the host of *The Exchange* on New Hampshire Public Radio before she "stepped down from the host's chair to pursue other interests, including writing fiction," according to her bio.

"Our whole theme is community, collaboration, and confidence," Robinson said, "and of course, Laura's got that in the bag. That's a huge theme for her.... She's always talking about local New Hampshire books. She's going to bring some of her years of storytelling to the table for us."



Keynote Speaker Laura Knoy. Courtesy photo.

Knoy is excited for the day.

"I spent my whole career in journalism trying to create community around ideas and problems and solutions," Knoy said, "and collaboration was definitely a part of that as you try to bring people together in a talk studio and hoping that people can not only discuss the issues and maybe their differences but collaborate on possible solutions for New Hampshire. But my speech is really about the third word in the conference title. I want to talk about confidence and how that's played a role in my own career as a journalist and how it's now playing a role in my efforts to become a published author."

Her book, *The Shopkeeper of Alsace*, "is historical fiction that starts in World War I and ends in World War II. It's heavily based on a true story that was shared with me by a French family who I met 30 years ago when I lived in France. The heroine of the story is the mother of the family," Knoy said.

Knoy expands on the deep connection between the two globe-stretching events. "That's the thing that I think makes this book so different. I mean, yes, there are tons of World War II stories, but Alsace's experience during World War II was unlike any other region of France.... They were annexed. They became part of Germany again. They were part of Hitler's Reich and their men had to fight for Hitler so their experience is completely different from any other region of France and nobody writes about that," Knoy said.

Knoy will spend most of her time speaking on the conference's themes.

"I won't be speaking that much about my specific book. I'm definitely going to talk about the role of confidence in my earlier career and how I'm kind of working," Knoy said. Among Knoy's other pursuits, she hosts a couple of podcasts. One is called ReadLocalNH and can be found on Spotify and other places where podcasts live.

"Once a month I interview a local author, and I've met some great authors ... and I just feel like there needs to be more platforms for New Hampshire authors to shine. I've been running ReadLocalNH for two and a half years and I've met some incredible people. I'll probably see some of them down in Derry," Knoy said.

Knoy believes many paths exist to the land of writing.

"There's no one right or wrong way to do it. And I'm kind of suspicious of anybody who says this is the right way. That works for them, but maybe that doesn't work for you. ... There's the people who say, 'Sit down every morning and write for four hours' and that's great for some people but that's not my life-style," Knoy said.

Robinson discussed other presenters on the schedule.

"Then we've got, of course, Gina Perry. She is doing a picture book process and she has multiple picture books. She writes and illustrates. She does a wonderful job. Terry Farish and Sara Leslie Arnold, that's like an author librarian team, and they're going to talk about author visits, presenting your stories to diverse students," Robinson said.

Robinson hopes writers from around the state are able to go to the event.

"I think we do find that writers are often quite introverted, so it can be a challenge to find those groups to talk to and mingle with and connect with, so they're going to be discussing that, Susan Drew and Scott Gray. Then the one I'm also really looking forward to is Sarah Lamagna. She does these New England hiking books, which I just love," Robinson said.

With the event being free it will be hard for writers to pass up.

"Registration is recommended. We wouldn't bar anyone from going if they showed up but it's recommended just so we make sure we put out enough tables and chairs and get ample room for everybody," Robinson said.

"It's really for every level and it's wonderful too because it really is a wonderful writers community and people come from Massachusetts and New Hampshire so I think the second best part besides being, just being a really enriching experience is the community that comes together. All the writers come out of their quiet little houses and come and collaborate and communicate for a day and it's really nice to see. Some people honestly just come because they want to hear interesting speakers. They might not even have a project in the works yet, and they're welcome to come too. It's not just about that, you know, really strict group who, you know, call themselves writers. It really is open to all, anyone who's interested. Great for teachers too," Robinson said. 🍌

Derry Author Fest

When: Saturday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Derry Public Library, 64 East Broadway, Derry
Free (registration encouraged)

More: derryauthorfest.wordpress.com/schedule

Schedule

10–10:05 a.m. – **Welcome**

10:05–10:50 a.m. – **Keynote** with Laura Knoy

11:10–11:55 a.m. – **Picture Book Process: From Your Light Bulb Moment to the Bookshelf** with Gina Perry

12:15–12:55 p.m. – **lunch break**

12:55–1:40 p.m. – **Author Visits: Presenting Your Stories to Diverse Students** with Terry Farish and Sara Lesley Arnold

2–2:45 p.m. – **Get Out of Your Spare Bedroom and Find Your People** with Susan Drew and Scott Gray

3:05–3:50 p.m. – **Plot Twist: You Don't Need an English Degree to be an Author** with Sarah Lamagna

3:50 p.m. – **door prize** by New Hampshire Writers Project

Meet-and-greet and book signing will immediately follow each session.

All-day book sale provided by Gibson's Bookstore.

Comic con fun — for kids

Telling stories, drawing pictures

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

This year is the 10th anniversary of the founding of Kids Con New England, said founder Emily Drouin.

“I’m a comic book artist and children’s book illustrator and founder of Kids Con New England. It’s a fun comic con for kids and children’s book event,” Drouin said.

The event is scheduled for Sunday, April 6, at the Sheraton in Nashua.

“We’re all about promoting art education and literacy through family-friendly comics, children’s books, art, and creative workshops, and lots of fun activities for the kids. They can meet over 130 comic and children’s book creators, exhibitors, middle grade authors, as well as lots of superheroes, princesses, pirates, Pokemon characters, characters such as Bluey, Mickey & Minnie, and Star Wars characters and more,” Drouin said.

“We do Jedi training, musical performances by the Clemenzi Crusaders and the Foo Family Band, magic shows with Sage’s Entertainment, and we have Gamers Sanctuary providing fun video games, and we also have indie game makers that do tabletop games, and we’re having Lego builds with the Lego Store, coding and robotic demos, and art contests, kids and family cosplay contests, scavenger hunt and more. So there’s a lot of things going on,” she said.

What drove Drouin to start this saga?

“I was self-publishing and started going to comic cons,” she said. “I noticed that ... there weren’t a lot of family-friendly activities for the kids. I would often be next to a lot of adult-themed comics. And I wanted to create a fun event for the kids so that there’s lots of things for the kids to do, as well as to inspire them to create comics, so I started running kid zones at comic cons where I was teaching creative workshops. Then I decided to create a whole convention devoted to fellow family-friendly comic creators and children’s book illustrators to showcase their work.”

Families will feel at home at this event.

“This is a family-friendly space, all the materials are family-friendly appropriate, you know, no bloody gore and inappropriate books for the kids,” Drouin said. She hopes to “inspire them with the creative workshops and get kids excited about reading and creating art and comics.”

Drouin is creating as well as offering the space to other creators.

“I just had a new comic that came out. It’s superhero-themed about saving the



Photo courtesy of Emily Drouin.

environment, kind of like Captain Planet. It’s by a company that does textile recycling, Apparel Impact. I worked on their second book in this series. The first was done by another comic artist but this one is Apparel Impact *Toxic Takedown* and it’s about this textile production causing their waste to go into the waters and it’s creating this toxic environment for the animals and the people in the surrounding community. The superhero team, they go to put a stop to that and save the day.”

Toxic Takedown is the second story in Apparel Impact’s *Team Impact!* comic book series. Selections from this story as well as more of Drouin’s work can be found on her website emilyatplay.com

“I work mainly with authors. I illustrate,” Drouin said. “I also had a couple of children’s books that came out too last year, or [in the] past couple of years. I had one about adopting a puppy called *Kona Finds a Family*. And I did another one about the environment, *Buddy the Bass and the Goopy Green Slime*.” Selections from these titles and more can be found on her website as well.

Comic strips in the newspaper were a big inspiration for Drouin.

“I loved reading all those and that inspired me to start writing and creating my own comics and stories, and I also loved going to the library, all the books that I could get, and it inspired me to write and illustrate my own stories. When I was a kid I was inspired by Brothers Grimm fairy tales. I loved fairy tales, and so I would write my own fairy tales. I did

CONTINUED ON PG 25 ►

Kids Con New England

When: Sunday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Sheraton, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua

Tickets: Admission costs \$16. Kids under 5 get in free. Discounts for family-of-four pack, military and seniors.

More: kidsconne.com, emilyatplay.com



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Nothing but comics

Little Giant show brings big-name artists

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

Jason Brodnick and his wife are hosting their Old School Comic Show at the Everett Arena in Concord on Saturday, April 5. They started the event in 2018 and typically expect to see a couple thousand comic book fans.

“So the Old School Comic Show is a true ‘old-school,’ in my opinion, what an old-school comic show was. I grew up in the ‘80s in Philadelphia and I went to some comic shows back then and I remember them to be nothing but comics, artists, and art,” Brodnick said.

He’s interested in the fundamentals.

“There weren’t cosplay parades, and there wasn’t the Geico truck trying to sell you car insurance. There wasn’t a vinyl siding guy, you know? I think comic cons have become something that I don’t like, which is like a pop culture con, you know? They’re fun, but I go to shows for comic books, and I think a lot of other people do as well.”

Brodnick and his wife run Little Giant Comics in Lawrence, Mass., and they originally had a storefront at the Rockingham Mall in Salem, New Hampshire.

Their main focus at the Old School Comic Show is the comic books.

“All the other stuff kind of gets in the way for me, so I created a show how I remember them to be with nothing but comics, artists and art, and it’s resonated within the community. It’s now arguably one of the best shows in the country. We have the best vendors in the hobby — Heritage Auction House, Metropolis Comics comes and sets up. Terry O’Neill comes from California, Harley Yee, Greg Reese, these guys are legendary vendors in the hobby, and they converge on the capital city of New Hampshire at this little arena and it’s an incredible event.”

Brodnick says attendees should expect to find countless comics when they walk in Saturday morning.

“It would be nothing but comic books as far as the eye can see and comic book art. So when you walk into the arena that’s what you’re going to get smacked in the face with



Old School Comic Show, 2021. Courtesy photo.

is some of the best comic books and comic book art that’s out there.”

Comic book artists will be in attendance as well.

“We have some of the best artists that ever worked on a book, legends in the hobby. Jim Steranko; David Michelinie, who created Venom and Scott Lang. We have Jim Shooter, John Beatty, Donny Cates. C.G.C. Grading Company is going to be on site. It’s a pretty awesome event.”

These visual stories have shaped Brodnick since he was a kid.

“I had moved from Tennessee to Philadelphia and I was kind of like a little outcast, didn’t have a lot of friends, spoke in a Southern accent. One day I was walking home from school and I found a copy of ROM #18 and I read it and it was a story about the X-Men fighting this robot alien guy, Spaceknight they call him, and I got hooked.... I had my father bring me to Comic Universe to look for the first part of the story so I could find out what really happened, and it was fun. I enjoyed it, so I started collecting comics at that point.”

The Old School Comic Show grew out of a difficult period in Brodnick’s life.

“In 2013, I lost my job and I threw my back out,” he recalled. “It was six years before I could stand upright again. I was getting shots in my back. I had gotten severely overweight and depressed. Life was beating me up a little bit. My wife took me to a yard sale event at the Everett Arena in 2013. I remember walking in and it was like the horns of Valhalla started playing and it was the perfect venue for a show. I inquired about it and the guy said, ‘We only do dry floor events three months out of the year and vendors get right of first refusal,’ he said, ‘so for something to open up, it’s really hard. It takes a while for something to open up, but if anything happens, I’ll call you.’ So I left my number, I didn’t think anything about it. Five years later, in January of 2018, I get a phone call. ‘We got one day in April, it’s a Saturday.’ I said, ‘I’ll take it.’” 🍌

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Little Giant Comics Old School Comic Show

When: Saturday, April 5, doors at 10 a.m. (9 a.m. for VIP)

Where: Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road, Concord

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at gate, \$50 VIP (pre-purchase only, limited to 250 tickets)

More: oldschoolcomicshow.com

Exeter LitFest returns

Free panels, author chats

By Zachary Lewis
zlewis@hippopress.com

On Saturday, April 5, the Exeter Literary Festival happens at the town hall and the library. Katie Adams, the Chair of the Exeter LitFest board, spoke with the Hippo about the event.

“The group was founded by a group of people who wanted to highlight and celebrate and cultivate their long literary tradition in Exeter,” Adams said. “We’ve had so many writers here, from Dan Brown, people with a tremendous amount of success, and John Irving, to a whole slew of self-published authors who really add to that literary fabric that we all really appreciate.”

The LitFest has taken years to get to its current shape.

“When the festival began, it mainly focused on hyper-local authors, authors who were right in town or right nearby. In recent years we have expanded, and we’ve been able to balance out a lot of our homegrown authors with a little bit of a broader group from the New England area,” she said.

Two authors topping the bill this year are novelist Courtney Sullivan and historian Dr. Tiya Miles.

Sullivan “writes a lot about New England, a lot about big families, multigenerational, a lot of women’s stories,” Adams said. “She’s really wonderful, and her latest book, *The Cliffs*, is set right in Maine, so we think she’ll be a terrific fit for our audience.”

Miles’s *All That She Carried* won the 2021 National Book Award for nonfiction. “Her latest book, *Night Flyer*, is a kind of biography of Harriet Tubman [but] not just a straight cradle-to-grave account of her life. It is an account of her life through the lens of both her faith and her relationship to the natural world, so it’s really special,” Adams said. “We’re very lucky to be able to have



Exeter Literary Festival. Courtesy photo.

these two authors who write such different books that are both so vibrant and relevant in our town.”

The fest is held on the first Saturday of April every year.

“This year we’re starting at 11 [a.m.] with our first event for adults and then our last event is at 4 [p.m.]. And we have events in the downstairs of the Town Hall as well as upstairs going on throughout that period of time,” Adams said.

“We also have a children’s event. This is our second year having a children’s event.... That is at the Exeter Public Library at 9:30 when children have been awake for many hours, as I well know.”

Aside from the featured authors, Lit Fest includes panel discussions. Four writers will join a panel about self-publishing. “We know we have a lot of writers and aspiring writers in this community, so that should be a really useful panel,” Adams said. “We have a panel on romantasy, the combination of romance and fantasy, which is one of the hottest and most rapidly growing genres for readers, so I think that will be a popular one,” Adams said.

Sports writing and baseball will be discussed too. “We have Keith O’Brien, who is a local author, who has written a great base-

CONTINUED ON PG 25 ►

Exeter Lit Fest

All events are free and open to the public.
Saturday, April 5

9:30 a.m. – **Cynthia Copeland**, author of middle-grade graphic novels *Drive* and *Cub*, at Exeter Public Library

Town Hall Main Events (Exeter Town Hall, 9 Front St.)

11 a.m. – **J. Courtney Sullivan** in conversation with Katie Adams

12:15 p.m. – **Keith O’Brien** in conversation with Dan Provost

12:15 p.m. – **Independent Publishing in the Modern World** featuring authors Renay Allen, Michael Cameron Ward, Justin Corriess and Sara North, moderated by Lara Bricker

1:30 p.m. – **Damsels and Dragons:**

Romance, Fantasy, and Marrying the Two featuring authors Jacquelyn Benson, Laura Mayo, and Lyra Selene, moderated by Naomi Farr

1:30 p.m. – **Echoes of Now: Poets of the Present Moment** featuring poets K. Iver, Cate Marvin and Nathan McClain, curated by Diannely Antigua

2:45 p.m. – **Family and Finding Home** featuring authors Jane Brox and Alexandra Chan, moderated by Stef Kiper Schmidt

2:45 p.m. – **Exeter High School Student Poetry**

4 p.m. – **Dr. Tiya Miles** in conversation with Caleb Gale

More: exeterlitfest.com

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Old country music

Klezmer Conservatory Band in Concord

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The lively folk song “Hava Nagila” is a staple at Jewish weddings and other celebrations, but when Hankus Netsky started the Klezmer Conservatory Band it was part of a very niche musical tradition that carried on mostly in synagogues. Netsky decided to change that. Surprisingly his inspiration was an Irish musician.

Nearly five decades later, his group is credited with reviving klezmer music for modern audiences, making several albums and performing around the world. Their music has been in films, including one narrated by the late Robin Williams, and they’ve worked with many musicians, including an ongoing collaboration with Itzhak Perlman.

The last one happened after Netsky lured a reluctant Perlman into a jam session — more on that later.

An April 6 show at Concord’s City Auditorium will be special, with the full Klezmer Conservatory Band on stage, Netsky shared in a recent phone interview.

“We need to give a little present to New Hampshire,” he said, noting that their last time in Concord, “we came with a small group ... we didn’t even have a trumpet player.”

Netsky came to New England Conservatory as a student in 1973. Five years later he was hired by the school’s Third Stream Department. The name came from NEC President Gunther Schuller, who felt that much contemporary music resulted from mingling “streams” of classical and jazz.

Schuller, Netsky said by phone recently, “felt very strongly that he couldn’t possibly talk about the 20th century of music without looking at the works of Ellington, James B. Johnson, Louis Armstrong, etc.” Netsky saw a role for Jewish music from the Ashkenazi communities of Ukraine, Romania and other Eastern European countries.

There were other tributaries, and as the Third Stream definition broadened, Netsky made klezmer’s case.

When Netsky was studying at NEC, he’d found boxes of klezmer 78s in his uncle’s basement that were once owned by his great-grandfather. He was amazed.

“By then in the Jewish community, the music,” he said, “was very perfunctory.” So he began transferring them to cassette.

The recordings revealed “there was a whole tradition of music that was on a really high level,” he said. “I kind of reinvigorated that stream.” Netsky began sharing them with students when he joined NEC’s faculty. He found common ground with guitarist Mick Moloney, who’d worked to bring long-lost Irish music back to the forefront.

“The real session music was more or less forgotten at that point, and he revived it,” Netsky recalled. “I went to one of his Irish sessions, and I went, ‘Oh! I get it! You have a party, serve some food, and then everybody comes and you teach them the music’; so that’s really what happened. Then one of the students got this idea we should do a concert.”

The young group contributed a three-song set as part of an evening of Jewish



Klezmer Conservatory. Courtesy photo.

music. It was supposed to be a one-off, but in days they had three offers to do full concerts. They sent a tape to Garrison Keillor and quickly received an invitation to appear on his NPR show, *A Prairie Home Companion*, the next time it stopped in Boston.

From that point on, they’ve led a resurgence of the once moribund tradition, appearing everywhere, from synagogues to Carnegie Hall. They’ve spawned other bands as well; the genre-bending Klezmatiks, founded during the mid-1980s in New York City, includes KCB founding member Frank London.

Then there are the many collaborations, the most famous with Perlman. It began haltingly, however, after an attempt at melding his legendary violin talents with jazz players like Oscar Peterson left him, according to many, dissatisfied. When a rep from NPR’s *Great Performances* contacted Netsky about Perlman’s interest in klezmer, she offered caution.

“He felt kind of burned by this jazz project,” he recalled her saying. “He just

wants to learn about the music, but he doesn’t feel like he’s going to be ready to play it. Your job is to get him to take his violin out and feel good about what he’s doing.” Netsky knew there were certain songs that Perlman would have listened to as a young child in Israel, so he began with those. Perlman, his interest piqued, took out his violin and joined in. Mission accomplished.

“Then we started playing more serious klezmer music,” Netsky continued. “He recognized the tunes, and, again, right away he was playing along. Then we started going around the band, having people improvise, and then he improvised. He realized right away that this actually was something he wanted to do.”

Klezmer Conservatory Band

When: Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m.

Where: Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord

Tickets: \$23 at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Art Opening

• **“Nicolas Party and Surrealism: An Artist’s Take on the Movement”** will run at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org) Thursday, April 10, through Monday, Sept. 1. “In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Surrealist Manifesto (1924), Nicolas Party and Surrealism: An Artist’s Take on the Movement explores the lasting influence of Surrealism through the work of contemporary artist Nicolas Party,” according to the website.

Events

• **The Nashua International Sculpture Symposium** will have its opening ceremony Thursday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Picker Artists’ Studios, 3 Pine St. in Nashua. Visit the sculptors at

work Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., between May 12 and May 28. The closing ceremony will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 31.

• **GSCS Spring 2025 Shop Till You Drop Craft Fair** on Saturday, May 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 150 Wakefield St. in Rochester featuring more than 50 crafters and artisans. See gscsociety.org.

Exhibits

• **“Nature’s Gallery”** at the Audubon’s Massabesic Center (26 Audubon Way, Auburn, nhaudubon.org), in partnership with the Manchester Artists Association, celebrates “creativity and nature’s beauty” via pieces in a variety of media from 15 local artists, according to the website. This exhibit will run through Friday, April 25. The Massabesic Center

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

• **“Ann Agee: Madonna of the Girl Child”** will be on display at the Currier Museum of Art (150 Ash St., Manchester, currier.org) through Thursday, June 5. “The series offers a contemporary feminist reinterpretation of the Madonna and Child theme by depicting the child as a girl, rather than a boy, subverting long-standing gender norms in religious art and Christian iconography. The exhibition at the Currier Museum of Art features recent and newly created porcelain works from this series, specially produced for the museum. These works continue Agee’s exploration of gender, power, and maternal identity, reframing iconic religious imagery through a feminist lens,” according to the Currier’s website.

• **“Revive, Renew, Recon-**

nect” Concord-based Art Alley Cats (artalleycats.com) and DIY Craft & Thrift (diycraftandthrift.com) will present the art exhibit “Revive, Renew, Reconnect” at Kimball Jenkins (266 N. Main St., Concord, kimballjenkins.com) through Wednesday, April 16.

• **“Actual Size,”** an exhibit of paintings by local artist CE Whiting, will be on display at the Community Art Gallery at the Peterborough Town Library (2 Concord St., Peterborough, 924-8040, peterboroughtownlibrary.org) until the end of April.

• **“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.

• **“Simply Nature”** at New Hampshire Audubon’s McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, nhaudubon.org) will run through Saturday, May 3. The exhibit features a small portion of photographer Pierre Garand’s catalog of nature photography.

• **“Three Vignettes”** is open now at the Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. “This exhibition comprises works from the permanent collection, with brief essays/meditations by 17 Saint Anselm College students,” according to a press release. The exhibit is open through May 9 and the gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday, 4 to 7 p.m.

• **“Queer Joy as an Act of Resis-**

tance,” a partnership between Queerlective and Totally Tea & Coffee (2 Capital Plaza; totally.cafe), will feature works of art from local artists that reflect the show theme in media including painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, digital art and mixed media, according to queerlective.com. The show will run through Saturday, May 17.

Workshops and classes

• **Mini Textile House Workshop** at the League of NH Craftsmen — Meredith Fine Craft Gallery (279 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-7920, meredith.nhcrafts.org/classes) on Saturday, April 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sewing machines and fabric provided. Tuition is \$50 per student plus a \$25 materials fee paid to the instructor on the day of the class.

• **Beginner Stained Glass Class** at

ARTS

the League of NH Craftsmen — Meredith Fine Craft Gallery (279 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-7920, meredith.nhcrafts.org/classes) on Sunday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with artist Sue Ries. Basic stained glass construction will be taught and you will make a finished piece. Tuition is \$55 per student, plus a \$45 materials fee paid to the instructor on the day of the class.

Theater

Shows

- **The Wedding Singer** at the Rep, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, seacoastrep.org, will run through Sunday, May 4, with shows at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
- **Guys and Dolls** presented by The Anselmian Abbey Players Friday, Thursday, April 3, through Saturday, April 5, at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester (tickets.anselm.edu). All shows are at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$17 for seniors and non-Saint Anselm students.
- **Palace Theatre's Short Play Festival** at the Rex Theatre (23 Amherst St. in Manchester; palace theatre.org) on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. each night, featuring eight new plays a night, and tickets cost \$24
- **Jim Henson's Fraggles Rock: Back to the Rock Live** comes to the Capitol Center for the Arts' Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St. in Concord; ccanh.com) on Friday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. The show features walk-around versions of the Fraggles and puppet-sized Dozers, according to the website. Tickets start at \$46.75 and a VIP option includes an opportunity to get a photo with the Fraggles for an additional \$30.
- **Disney's Frozen Jr.** presented by Actorsingers Youth at the Janice B. Streeter Theater (14 Court St. in Nashua) on Friday, April 11, and Saturday, April 12, at 7 p.m.

and Sunday, April 13, at 2 p.m. See actorsingers.org for tickets.

• **Monty Python's Spamalot School Edition** The teens of Ovation Theatre Company (ovationtc.com) will present *Monty Python's Spamalot School Edition* on Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, April 12, at 1 and 7 p.m. at the Derry Opera House (29 W. Broadway in Derry). See derryoperahouse.org for tickets.

• **Seussical The Musical** Friends of the Amato Center will present *Seussical The Musical* on Friday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 12, at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, at 2:30 at Souhegan High School in Amherst. Tickets cost \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and kids. See amatocenter.org/riverbend-youth-company.

• **Jesus Christ Superstar** at the Palace Theatre (80 Hanover St. in Manchester; palacetheatre.org) April 18 through May 11, Fridays through Sundays plus Thursday, May 8.

• **Jack of Diamonds** presented by the Majestic Theatre (880 Page St., Manchester; majestictheatre.net) Friday, April 25, through Sunday, April 27. Four residents of a retirement home find out that the financial advisor who should be protecting their life savings has been arrested for operating a Ponzi scheme and "pandemonium ensues as the four retirees try to find a way to exact their revenge, recoup their losses, and keep the authorities from discovering their plans," according to the Majestic website.

• **Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help** Nashua Theatre Guild presents the New Hampshire premiere of *Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help*, a play by Katie Forgette, on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 27, at 2 p.m. at the Court Street Theatre (14 Court St. in Nashua). According to the play description, the story is a "bittersweet memory play about a Catholic childhood in the 1970s ... a gently funny, often hilarious

and touching production directed by Vicky Sandin," according to nashuatheatreguild.org. Tickets cost \$20 for adults, \$18 for 65+, students and military.

Classical

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

• **Klezmer Conservatory Band** at the Concord City Auditorium (2 Prince St. in Concord) on Sunday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 at the door (door opens at 6 p.m.) or \$23 online at ccca-audi.org.

• **Dallas Brass** with music ranging from classical to Broadway and more on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m., at the Stockbridge Theatre (Pinkerton Academy, Derry, pinkertonacademy.org/stockbridge-theatre). Tickets cost \$15 to \$30.

• **Drawn to the Music — The Planets** The New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra will present a program featuring Gustav Holst's "The Planets" on Saturday, April 12, and Sunday, April 13, 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.

• **It's All Overtures** A concert by Symphony NH presenting several of the best-known overtures on Saturday, April 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St., Nashua, nashuacenter-forthearts.com). Tickets cost \$32 to \$67. See symphonynh.org.

• **Brandenberg and Beyond** a Family Matinee Series performance by the Portsmouth Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, May 3, at 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel St., Portsmouth. "Directly after the concert, the PSO will welcome young audience members to join in an interactive and hands-on instrument demonstration," according to portsmouthsymphony.org. \$15 suggested donation.

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FROM ACROSS THE WATER

The Concord Community Music School (23 Wall St., Concord, ccmusicschool.org) will hold its second to last event in the "New England Roots & Branches" series for the school year on Saturday, April 5, from 6 to 9 p.m. "Transatlantic Tunes: Celtic & British Isles Folk Tunes" will feature school faculty Audrey Budington, Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki, Liz Faiella and Dan Faiella celebrating "music from across the pond that has made its way into the New England folk repertoire." This free event is held in the school's recital hall; donations are accepted.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Spring gardening is here

Start slowly and save your back

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com

— THE — GARDENING — GUY —

It's April, and spring has sprung. Or will soon. Winter always is a sneaky devil, coming back with hard frosts and even a foot of snow on occasion. There is much to do, but start slowly, not just for your back, which has been resting all winter, but because a week of warm sunny days doesn't mean your soil is warm enough to plant. A soil thermometer pushed 3 inches into the soil should read 50 degrees before planting anything, even spinach and so-called cold-weather crops.

As you move around your garden you will probably notice that the soil is moist. If you are leaving footprints in the lawn or garden soil, stay off it until it dries out more. Otherwise you can ruin soil structure by compacting it.

You can put down 6-inch planks as walkways in flower beds if you are determined to

weed or to remove leaves and debris while the soil is still a bit wet. But even then, be careful. There may be little green noses of perennials or bulbs lurking under the leaves and you won't want to damage them by putting a plank on them.

I've had snowdrops up and blooming since March, as I do every year. By April I have lots of bulbs blooming: crocus, glory-of-the-snow, scilla or squill (a deep purple early bloomer), winter aconite (a bright yellow, short-stemmed beauty) and early daffodils. If you don't have enough bulbs blooming, imagine where they might go, and put plant labels there for fall planting. A south-facing hillside bed will produce blossoms up to three weeks before a north-facing bed.

I plant 100 tulips as cut flowers every year. If you planted some last fall and have deer in the neighborhood, you may be disappointed to see them eaten just as they are starting to bloom. I prevent this by surrounding and covering my tulip bed with chicken wire before that happens. I plant my tulips in the vegetable garden each fall, and treat

them as annuals.

Once your lawn has dried out, it will need a good raking to clean up the winter debris. I like to wait until the lawn has greened up a bit before raking. I don't want to rake a dormant lawn as it would be easy to damage it with a brisk raking. Think of your lawn as individual plants growing very close together, not as one big green plant. They compete with each other and with crabgrass and weeds. A sprinkling of good compost will improve your soil, giving the lawn a better place to thrive.

I recommend reducing the size of most lawns. Think of a lawn as an area rug, not wall-to-wall carpeting. That will allow you to have a bigger vegetable garden and more places for native trees, shrubs and perennials that will support pollinators and birds. Do you know that caterpillars are essential food for baby birds? We need to provide flowers and trees that the butterflies and moths recognize and use — our natives.

I recommend raised beds for the vegetable garden, but you don't have to build or buy wooden boxes for raised beds. When the soil



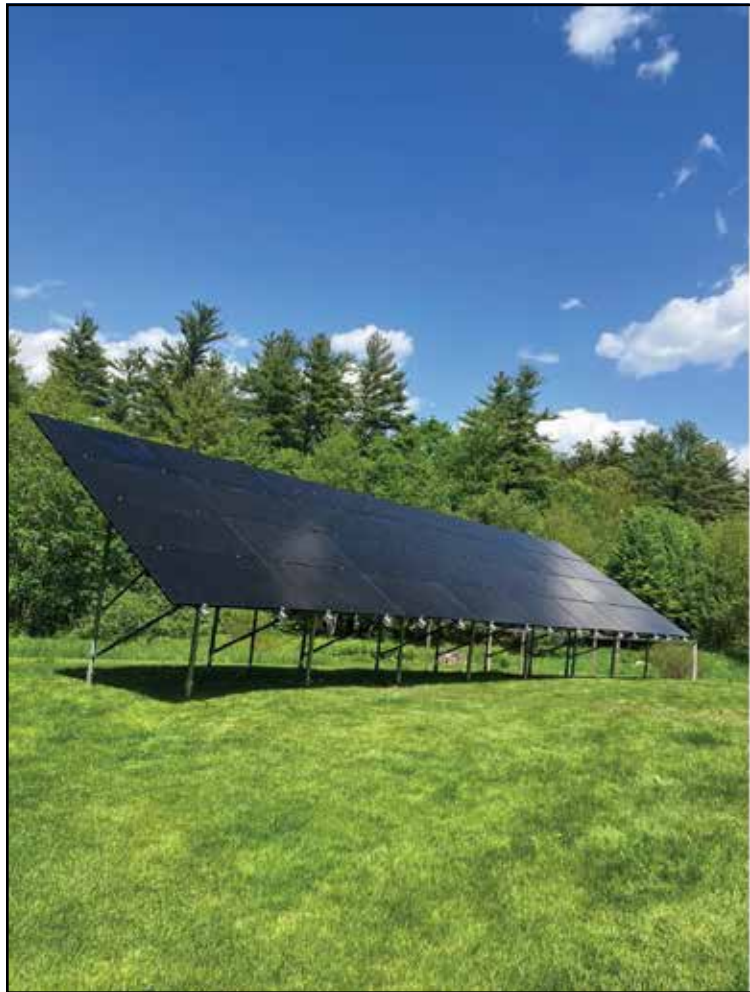
Dandelions and other deep-rooted weeds pull best when soil is moist. Photo by Henry Homeyer.

has dried out, loosen it with a garden fork, and then use a short-tined rake to drag soil from walkways onto your designated beds to raise them up 6 inches or so. A 30-inch-wide bed is ideal — it's wide enough for roots to spread far and wide, yet you will be able to reach all parts for weeding.

Adding compost to your soil every year will improve it greatly over time. An inch of compost works wonders if you do it every year. Buy it in bulk if you have access to a pickup truck, or buy bags if you don't. And for my tomatoes? I always add a shovel of compost in every planting hole and stir it in well with my favorite weeding tool, the CobraHead weeder (cobrahead.com). Compost not only provides essential minerals in small quantities; it greatly improves soil texture and its ability to hold water in dry times.

Some people hate weeding, some love it.

CONTINUED ON PG 17 ►



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Get Previa to love you back

Dear Car Talk:

I have a 1992 Toyota Previa. I LOVE this little 5-speed minivan. Or, I want to love it. It is such a strong-feeling car! Only 160,000 miles! It's got a lifetime left! But my husband says if we can't figure out why it won't start occasionally, I have to get rid of it! So, OK, it isn't so occasional anymore and it's starting to become a real hassle. Here are the details: The van will ALWAYS cold start. But, if I drive for a distance more than a few blocks, let's say the grocery store, run in, and then try to start the van before an hour has passed, it will crank but won't start! When it's hot out, it might take 30-45 minutes before it will start. In colder weather, 5-10 minutes. Also, the van will die when idled for too long. I avoid certain intersections that have a long wait, so the van doesn't die! See how I've rearranged my life for this van!

We've tried some things, taken it to two different mechanics, drove it with the gas cap off, and replaced a few parts with no luck. I don't know how much longer I'll be able to keep this up! The van is rust-free and will be a great car once we figure this out! I know it! Can you help? — Dejah

Dejah, you need to find a mechanic who enjoys working on this van as much as you

love driving it. Try googling your local Masochistic Mechanics Lodge. Actually, you're not alone in loving these early Previas. There was a minor cult built around them. And this may be fixable. Perhaps easily. So, start by finding a mechanic who is patient and willing to work with you to solve this puzzle.

My first guess — and it is just a guess — is that it's a dying fuel pump or fuel pump relay. That can definitely be heat-related and would cause your symptoms. The easiest first step is to just replace the fuel pump relay. That's quick and cheap. And if happens to fix it, well, hallelujah.

When it doesn't, your mechanic can rig up a pressure gauge to the fuel pump that you can check while you're driving. If I remember correctly, the engine cover is between the front seats on this van, so it might be pretty easy to do. The gauge would show you that when the engine first cold-starts, the fuel pump pressure would read something like 45 psi. But when the engine starts to bog down, you can glance at the gauge in real-time. And you might see it drop to 40, then 35, then 30, and then the engine will die. Then you know you need a fuel pump, and you're all set.

If it's not a fuel issue, then you'd look for

an electrical problem. And your new best friend/mechanic can hook up a high-voltage test light that flashes whenever a spark plug fires. Then, when the van dies, and you

crank it, if you don't see the light flashing, you're not getting a spark. Then, I might suspect something like an ignition coil that's overheating. Visit Cartalk.com. 🗨️

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Hi, Donna,

I don't care about the value of this box. It's my curiosity that desires to be satisfied. I think this piece may be best described as in the category of old medical quackery! The internet, I believe, attests to the fact that there's a lot of such still continuing today. It's a very dusty wooden case with a brass handle and hardware, but it looks as though it was never actually used! I'm fascinated, but not ready to be the first one to try it out! If I promise you will not be opening Pandora's box, could you perhaps shed some light on this contraption?

With many thanks and kind regards,
Helen

Dear Helen,

You made me laugh!

There were several different supposed uses for these at the time. Not sure any really worked! I have had a couple different versions of the J.H. Bunnell Co. medical machines during my career,



from electric shocks to nothing I would ever use! Not sure if even back in the early 1900s these weren't considered medical quackery. They are today and definitely not made to use. The cherry wood cases make for a beautiful storage box cleaned up. I would just recommend removing all the contents.

The top pieces, the plate to separate the medical pieces from the battery. Then the battery as well. As you said, Helen, it is more of a curiosity item. The values are under \$100. I just would hate to see anyone try it!

Donna

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

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News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• Steeped in history and tradition:

There will be a tea tasting and lecture comparing spring and summer teas at The Cozy Tea Cart (104A Route 13, Brookline, 249-9111, thecozyteacart.com) on Thursday, April 24, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. This will include a tasting of four teas from around the world. The cost is \$30 per person. Registration by April 10 is required.

• **Free seeds:** As it nears time to start a garden, remember that many local libraries host seed libraries where community members can take or exchange free seeds. Some area libraries that do this are the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org), the Whipple Free Library (67 Mont Vernon Road, New Boston, 487-3391, whipplefreelibrary.org), the Manchester City Library (405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchesterlibrary.org) and the Concord Public Library (45 Green St., Concord, 225-8670, concordnh.gov/1983/Library).

• **Free ice cream:** It's Free Cone Day! Ben & Jerry's annual ice cream scoop give-away is Tuesday, April 8, from noon to 8 p.m. Head to the Ben & Jerry's at 940 Elm St. in Manchester. See benjerry.com/scoop-shops/free-cone-day.

• **Nuts about wine:** Averill House Vineyard (21 Averill Road, Brookline, 244-3165, averillhousevineyard.com) is offering a nut and wine pairing. As described in a March 22 press release, the pairing will feature "four unique wine and nut combinations, enriched by the sweet undertones of whiskey, bourbon, and rum-infused nuts," and a "sampling of four distinct wines, selected from a diverse range of over 21 varieties." Reserve a seat at averillhousevineyard.com/reservations.

• **Moving:** After five years at 900 Elm St. in Manchester, **Patz Deli and Catering** shut down temporarily, its last day was Feb. 26, as it moves to a larger facility, according to a post on its Facebook page — facebook.com/patzdeli.

FOOD

Dinner and beer at Republic Brewing

A lot has changed, but not the french fries

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

If you had asked Peter Macone in 2019 what he saw himself doing in six years, it probably wouldn't have been running a brewery. "It would be running two stores on Elm Street 110 steps apart," he said.

Macone is a veteran restaurateur. For many years he was a part owner and the operating manager of two popular restaurants in downtown Manchester — the Republic Cafe (now closed) and Cam-po Enoteca, which merged with Republic before being sold to new owners.

"Then Covid happened," Macone said.

According to Macone, the pandemic shook up the restaurant industry and changed the way it viewed itself.

"Covid was sort of the earliest catalyst for where we are today," he said. "It changed the expectation and the way that we express farm-to-table food." One of the most dramatic changes was in the role breweries played. "Breweries are a market that are just absorbing so many markets now," Macone said. "People go to breweries instead of brunch, breweries instead of a lunch place, breweries instead of a bar after work, breweries for dinner. I saw that and I saw the ability to have a more sustainable lifestyle for myself in the long run. I have a six-week-old."

Eventually, this led to the Republic Brewing Co., a partnership with Mike Brown, the owner of Hometown Coffee Roasters. Macone said each partner brought a particular set of skills to the new business.

"I know about food and hospitality," Macone said. "I partnered with Mike, [who] made some of the most top-notch beer right out of the gate. And there was a day where he presented me with a beer and said, 'I think this will be our flagship.' I tasted it and I was like, 'All right, we're going to do just fine with the beer.'"

That was Republic's Bella, a single-hopped New England-style India Pale Ale, or IPA. Macone said he and Brown made the decision early on to focus on a few core beer recipes.

"We want to have staples people know they can get, and stand by their quality," he said. "They're really quality products, but we're not looking to fill a portfolio with 700 zillion names. For instance, next winter, Michael will be, without a doubt, doing a dark beer — likely involving coffee, as he has Hometown next door."

In addition to its own core slate of beers,



Photos by John Fladd.

Macone said it's important to both partners to feature beers from other area breweries.

"We'll always have a guest tap here," he said. "We always look to feature our friends in the area. So we have a Kettlehead guest tap right now. I believe we have a To Share coming up. We've [featured] To Share in the past; Post and Beam, Spyglass — all people that have helped us get open in the industry. And so we kind of want to return that favor. And plus, it's just great to be talking about other people's breweries and representing them. And they'll help fill the gaps of what we don't have."

On the food side of the business, Macone said he has brought a focus with him from the original Republic Cafe and applied it to pub food.

"We're maintaining the same farm-to-table aspect and the farms that we used to work with. So the same farmer that brought us pork at Republic is bringing us pork here. The same farmer that brought us beef is bringing us beef here. And the same goes for chicken. And eggs, we have a local farmer bringing us eggs. This is a way to continue those relationships that are over a decade old."

"There are a couple little recipes that we've carried over [from Republic]," he said. "But most of it has been tweaked into more of a brewery format menu. One thing that is a straight carryover is our french fries. Republic's french fries were award-winning. We brought those straight over just as they were, and people are really excited about it. They're hand cut, blanched, and fried with capers and a bunch of other little things in there that make them unique"

"It's been important for us to focus on the beer and the food," Macone said, "and



that's why it's nice to have Mike and I both involved. We have sort of a left brain and right brain, and we can both really dig into what our piece of the pie is, and it allows us to work on elevating the beer and the food at the same time and try to give people that experience of both. So that on Friday night, you know, we don't just have people coming to drink beer after work, we have people coming here for their Friday night dinner." 🍷

The Republic Brewing Co.

Where: 72 Old Granite St., Manchester, 836-3188, republicbrewingcompany.com
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Mushroom season

In springtime, foraging ramps up

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

It's maple season, and for Christine Gagnon that means one thing. Mushrooms.

Gagnon is the owner and operator of the Uncanoonuc Foraging Co. (uncforaging.com) in Goffstown. Her passion is finding and identifying edible plants and fungi.

"I just love foraging," she said. "I love being out there and finding things. It's like a treasure hunt. Just the idea of what mushrooms do and what they are and to see the many different forms that they come in and how they—." She paused to put her feeling into words. "It's so vast. It's just ... vast."

Gagnon said one type of mushroom that appears in early spring is an oyster mushroom. "Sometimes you'll see those in the winter too," she said. "If you have a 60-degree day — and there can be snow in the woods, but 60, and you might see oyster mushrooms pop up on trees." In other words, during maple season. "They like maple trees actually," she said.

Another mushroom that makes an appearance at this time of year is called a Pheasant's Back (Cerioporus squamosus). "Those grow on trees," Gagnon said. "And they have a very cucumber-y, melon-y, watermelon-rind smell to them. So sometimes people will pickle them. Because smell makes up a lot of how things taste a lot of times."

One of the things that can make finding mushrooms difficult, Gagnon explained, is that the mushrooms most of us see are just the fruiting body of a fungus (mycelium), which is usually tiny and threadlike and difficult for non-specialists to see. Depending on the variety of mushroom, finding them "is a combination of the season and when the conditions are right," she said. "Some mushrooms will pop up all season and some are very seasonal."

For example, morel mushrooms only happen in the spring for a very short period of time. "When the ground temperature has warmed up to a certain amount, when the air temperatures are certain, when the humidity and moisture is what it is. And then around here, we don't really have the 'burn morels' [which appear after forest fires] they have out west so much, so you have to find them with the right trees, whether it's in old orchards or elm trees The mycelium grows



Oyster mushrooms. Photo from NH Garden Solutions.

in or around or through roots of trees and plants and other organisms."

But that's not true of all mushrooms, Gagnon said. "Other ones are called saprophytic or saprotrophic; they're breaking down dying material. They're decomposers, which also makes sense with the fire morels like out west."

"In the early spring," she said, "you [find] mushrooms that are trying to get a jump on their biological competition. You can find morels if you know where to find them." But, she said, sometimes they will spring up somewhere completely unexpected. "They are what we call 'landscape morels' because sometimes when people order mulch for their gardens the mulch is coming with the mycelium already in there. And so people find [a morel], and they're like, 'Oh, it was in my garden.' It was, but it's usually because the mycelium was present in the mulch."

Mushrooms aside, early spring is also the season for ramps, sometimes called wild garlic, which Gagnon said is in the onion family. "The genus is allium," she said, [with the scientific name] allium tricoccum or trichocum, variety braticii. They have a white stem or sometimes a red stem, but they are in the allium family. Sometimes they're called wild onions, and sometimes they're really called a wild leek, because you can eat the entire thing."

Gagnon said that her biggest thrill is finding something new, especially mushrooms.

"There's so much DNA work now being done on them. So if we're not exactly sure what it is, we can go home and dehydrate it, upload it to iNaturalist, send a specimen in, and it gets DNA'ed, and then we get the results back in however long it takes. The great thing about taking pictures with our phones these days or with iNaturalist is it gives you the exact locations and when you took it. So you can kind of go back and look for anything later." 🍄

Caution where you eat

Eating unidentified plants or mushrooms can be dangerous. Please forage under the supervision of a trained forager.

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH KRISTEN CHIOSI



Kristen Chiosi. Courtesy photo.

Kristen Chiosi is owner of and instructor at The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, culinary-playground.com). "I got my master's in business management and human resources. But I'd always loved to cook," Chiosi wrote. "I always spent a lot of time in the kitchen and always took cooking classes wherever I was. ... The business came up for sale and I decided that I kind of wanted to take a leap of faith and buy this business and see where I could take it. That was in 2013. The previous business owner had put in a lot of elbow grease, got a nice foundation going. I took it on in 2013 and we've just continued to grow and develop, offer new things."

What's your must-have kitchen item?

I say my must-have kitchen tool is your mindset. You have to want to do it. ... It's just an opportunity to connect and be really present. Getting all of your stuff in order — 'mise en place' is a term that we use. It's just from start to finish, from pulling your ingredients, compiling your recipe, enjoying the meal, cleaning up, it's just all such a beautiful ritual.

What's your favorite place to dine out at?

I really like to try to keep it local, and we have some nice options downtown in Derry. We have Cask and Vine, who is just always being really unique and coming up with some great menus. We have Foundations that just reopened. We have a great little Indian place downtown, Destination India. I love that just from my location from my kitchen I can walk to all different types of cuisines.

Who's a celebrity you would like to see taking one of your classes or eating some of your food?

Oh my gosh, I just love Barefoot Contes-

sa [television chef Ina Garten]. She's just so approachable ...

What is a class that you really enjoy at the Playground?

I love homemade pasta. I think people are really impressed when you can make your own pasta, and it's such a tactile experience. ... We do homemade ravioli in one of our classes, and it's just awesome.

What's a food trend that you see in New Hampshire right now?

... I think we're kind of moving away from a dependence on all these meat-filled dishes. I like the idea of getting more vegetables and whole grains into the diet, but not in kind of fake ways. Let's highlight the ingredients for what they are and their nutritional value.

What is your favorite thing to cook at home?

I like soups and stews — something that you piece together and leave it simmering. It fills your house with these beautiful scents...

— Compiled by John Fladd

Ham & Cheese Scones

From Kristen Chiosi at The Culinary Playground. Makes 4 regular sized (or 8 smaller sized) scones

- 1 cup flour, spooned and leveled
- ½ Tablespoon sugar
- ½ Tablespoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup unsalted butter, cold, cut into cubes
- ¼ cup + 2 Tablespoons buttermilk
- ¼ cup diced ham steak or deli slices
- ½ cup shredded cheddar
- ½ Tablespoons snipped scallions

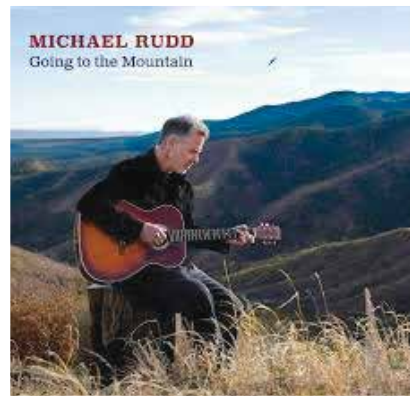
Preheat oven to 425°F.
Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
In mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, garlic powder and salt.
Add cold butter. Mix into coarse crumbs

using hands or pastry cutter, working quickly so as not to soften butter too much.
Stir in buttermilk, ham, cheese and scallions.
Mix until a soft dough forms.
Turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead 3-4 times with hands.
Flatten out dough with hands until you have an even circle of dough, approximately 1 inch thick.
Cut into wedges (4 large or 8 small).
Place each wedge onto baking sheet, separating them so they don't touch. Use a pastry brush to brush each scone with heavy cream.
Bake for 18-22 minutes or until lightly browned and firm to the touch. Let cool on baking sheet on a cooling rack for a few minutes before serving.

POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Michael Rudd, *Going to the Mountain* (Invisible Road Records)



Although one would naturally assume that Bob Dylan viewed Townes Van Zandt as a competitor, the two were quite respectful of each other; like the Stones and The Beatles, one couldn't exist without the other. Thus we could wax hyperbolic and say that there are only two types of roots-folk fans in the world, and this K-8 school principal, an Albuquerque resident who left New Jersey to concentrate on writing, lumps into the "darker please" category, preferring muddy examinations of slovenly desperation to Dylan's more laissez-faire, metaphor-stuffed acquiescence. Rudd's second

album begins with "Before The Demon Came," and immediately comparisons to Eels and Tom Waits spring to mind, along with the usual suspects, T. Bone Burnett and such. In that, the tuneage is more appropriate for an American civilization that's creaking awkwardly around on its last legs; sung in a baritone that's both weary and indestructible, Rudd weaves a tapestry comprising dream fugues ("Going To The Mountain"), quiet soul-searching ("End Of Days") and spidery unplugged honky-tonk ("Walk My Way"). Boy, would I like to hear local folkies lean into this approach. A+ — Eric W. Saeger

Carriers, *Every Time I Feel Afraid* (self-released)



This band's leader/frontperson is Curt Kiser, formerly of indie rockers Pomegranates; in this project his focus is fixed in the direction of War On Drugs (for reference, old people should think David Essex fronting Pink Floyd). There's a similar airy quality to these songs, and in fact Kiser's infatuation with WOD is a little off-putting: The title track is a little too close to WOD's "Suffering" for my comfort, not that that should necessarily dissuade you from checking this out, and besides, a little melodic helium does fit our zeitgeist a lot better than that of Bon Iver and such, especially given that the Aughts-indie period has finally been

consigned to the recycle-bin of history where it belonged on Day 1. What am I even saying, you ask? I mean that it's melodically pure if derivative in spots; where WOD's "Under The Pressure" is more Joy Division-ish, Kiser selects A-ha's "Take On Me" as his spirit animal for the push track, "Motion." Hey, either way, at least I don't have to stomach more Sigur Ros verisimilitude, put it that way, which is always a good thing. B — Eric W. Saeger

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Hooray, the most pointless month of the calendar is over, good old March, goodbye forever, hasta la vista, arrivadertch, but oh goodie, here comes March's annoying little brother, April, the month when we all hit Target at 7 a.m. the morning after Easter just to stock up on Reese's peanut butter eggs at 50 percent off, what else are you supposed to do in April other than start a really inadvisable romantic relationship now that the alcoholic bars are serving their gourmet cheeseburgers outside, when there isn't a "freak" (in other words normal for April) snowstorm? Well, OK, there's always that other thing you can do, go to ~~Strawberries or Rokit Records or Bradlees or K-Mart or Amazon~~ to buy bad albums, but you can do that every week, when Friday strikes, with its Easter basket-load of new albums! Just look at this one, streeting this Friday, April 4, a collaborative album between **Elton John and Brandi Carlile**, titled *Who Believes in Angels*! Now hopefully, Elton, who recently celebrated his 3,000th birthday at his vampire pyramid-castle, had some vague idea of who Brandi Carlile is when he was doing these recordings and didn't think she was actually Lorde or Madonna or Brenda Lee, who can even keep up with all this nonsense, you know? In case you're also a mega-old vampire who doesn't know who she is: Carlile's a famous folk-rocker who wrote a bunch of tunes for Tanya Tucker, so maybe Elton's handlers told him she was actually Alison Krauss (of frequent Robert Plant-collaboration fame) to get him on board, but either way, I'm sure the circumstances of their collaboration are bizarre indeed, but belay all that, folks, let's go listen to the title track of this collaborative collaboration between the 3,000-year-old mummy-vampire and Carlile, whom some of us professional rock journalists refer to as "No, Not Bonnie Raitt, The Newer One." Yikes, you should see the video for this song, they're trying to revive Elton's most famous antics, the stage set in the video revolves around his *Captain Fantastic*-era optics, you know, when he was into high nonsense-art a la Hieronymus Bosch (but nice!), and then we move to the song, which is in the same vein as "Candle in the Wind," Elton's famous ode to Princess Diana. What am I saying? Well, basically I'm saying that there was no need for this mutually collaborative collaboration-a-thon to ever happen, but I'm sure there are some 80-year-old National Enquirer readers who'll love it, and Elton looks really good for someone who's been preserved in a Dracula coffin with ancient tanna leaves since Carter was president.

• **DOGGOD** also comes out on Friday; it's the third album from **L.A. Witch**, an all-girl garage band that launched when the singer's boyfriend forbade her from playing with male musicians, and instead of dumping him on the spot she decided to go with it, because boyfriends don't just grow on trees, you know. "The Lines" is a cool '80s-goth-dance thingie, evincing the band's love for The Gun Club (and by extension X-Ray Spex, but don't tell them that). It's fine, sure.

• And yadda yadda, here's another one, **The Ophelias**, with their new LP, *Spring Grove*! Oh, it's not the California psychedelic band, it's the Ohio indie band, what are we even doing right now? The single, "Salome," is a grungy filthy indie-grinding mess with a really catchy groove, I approve of these people, whoever they are.

• We'll put this week to bed with New York noise-poppers **Sleigh Bells**, who are selling a new album, *Bunky Becky Birthday Boy*! The single, "Bunky Pop," is like a Nintendo-ized ripoff of Outkast's "Hey Ya," and yes, it's as artistically important as it looks. — Eric W. Saeger



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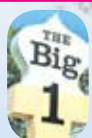


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POP CULTURE BOOKS

Heartwood, by Amity Gaige (Simon & Schuster, 320 pages)

"Any woodsman who says he's never been lost in the woods is a liar. It's inevitable," says Maine game warden Beverly Miller in the opening pages of *Heartwood*, a new novel about a woman who goes missing while hiking the length of the Appalachian Trail.

"Up here, we tend to think of being lost as something you can be good at," Beverly, who goes by Lt. Bev, explains. But for some people who get lost in the woods, panic sets in, and "loss of mental control is more dangerous than the lack of food or water."

And with that, we are propelled headlong into the search for Valerie Gillis, the 42-year-old nurse who vanished about 200 miles from the terminus at Mt. Katahdin, where she was supposed to end her three-month trek. Valerie's voice is present throughout the novel, however, in letters she is writing to her mother as she tries to stay alive in what's known as the Hundred-Mile Wilderness, growing weaker by the day.

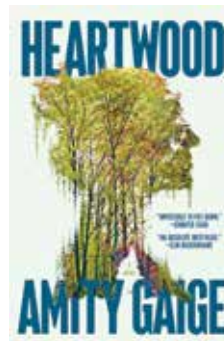
"The first thing I should say is that you were right. You didn't want me to hike the Appalachian Trail," she writes, acknowledging that a "thru-hike" — the insider's term for walking the trail straight through — "isn't a reasonable thing to do."

"Anyone who wants to walk two thousand miles in a row does it because they find beauty in the unreasonable. All that misery, that's the point. The high probability of failure, that's motivation," she writes.

Meanwhile, her parents and husband are part of a search effort that grows larger as each day passes, even as the odds of finding her alive drop as the days tick on. "Ninety-seven percent of the time, we find lost people within twenty-four hours. The other 3 percent, we know those stories like scripture," Lt. Bev says.

The story unfolds, not only through the narration of the game warden leading the search effort, and Valerie's letter, but also through the eyes of Lena Kucharski, a 76-year-old disabled resident of a retirement community who becomes something of an internet sleuth, eager to help in the only way she can.

Interspersed throughout, we are introduced to people who met Valerie on the trail — members of her "tramily," as AT hikers call each other — as well as various tips that are phoned in by psychics, do-gooders and other concerned people. While it's assumed there has been some sort of accident that has befallen Valerie — maybe a bad fall or medical episode — there is also the concern that



someone she came across in the woods harmed her, and or that even someone she knows was involved in her disappearance.

Meanwhile, we learn of a secretive facility near where Valerie disappeared, a real-life military operation identified by the acronym SERE — Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape — which is training for members of the Armed Forces

and civilian contractors who might one day be trapped behind enemy lines. It sounds like the stuff of video games, but a SERE facility exists in Rangeley, Maine, among other locations.

The story has good bones, for sure, but its heart is in the development of four characters:

– Valerie, who became a nurse to "fix things" but was exhausted by the challenges of caring for patients during the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic; who had come to question her love for her husband while on the trail, where she assumed the name "Sparrow" while making new friends and writing quirky trail poetry like "Ode to My Spork."

– Bev, one of only two female wardens in the state, an imposing 6 feet tall, but with a mother, now dying, who didn't understand her daughter's line of work: "It's just so unusual. For a woman to want to drive around chasing criminals," she'd said.

– Ruben, the 260-pound Black man who decided to hike the trail on a whim and became Valerie's companion for a while and kept her laughing with his stories of trying to find hiking clothes and boots that fit, while also trying to fit in, so to speak, on the trail: "Man, do you have to be friendly when you are a Black man hiking. You have to start waving, like, a mile away. 'Hey, ya'll! Beautiful morning, innit?'"

– And Lena, the lifelong voracious reader who lives alone in a retirement community, where she rebuffs the attention of other residents in favor of foraging for edible plants and chatting with an internet friend who goes by the name TerribleSilence.

Gaige gives all of these characters such warmth and depth that they could each hold up a novella on their own, but she weaves their stories together and manages to keep the tension thrumming until the last few pages.

As someone who has technically been on the Appalachian Trail but never felt the compulsion to actually hike it, I found this story compelling not only as a novel but in its ample nonfiction detail. Gaige, the author of four other novels, hung out with real-life game wardens in Maine and heard their stories while researching this book, and it is full

of the language, customs and experiences of thru-hikers.

Gaige has said she has been long haunted by the story of a 66-year-old hiker who died of starvation and exposure after getting lost in Maine in 2013. There are similarities between that hiker's story and the fictional Valerie Gillis' — both started their trek in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (Valerie plans to complete the upper stretch, then the lower), and like the real hiker, Valerie is afraid of

the dark and takes anxiety medication, making a terrible situation even worse.

In simple and sparse narration that blooms with lyrical descriptions of New England landscapes, *Heartwood* manages to be part mystery, part thriller, part how-to-hike-the-Appalachian-Trail guidebook — or it might convince you to never set foot in the woods again. Either way, start *Heartwood* and you'll likely be a thru-reader, all the way to the end. **A** —Jennifer Graham 🍷

Books
Author events

• **Katee Robert** will talk about the eighth book in their Dark Olympus series, *Sweet Obsession*, at the BNH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord) on Thursday, April 3, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$29. See gibsonsbookstore.com for details about book stamping and tickets.

• **Olivie Blake** will talk about her new novel, *Gifted & Talented*, at the Music Hall Historic Theater

(28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, themusichall.org) on Sunday, April 6, at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$54.50 and include a signed book.

• **Ethan Tapper**, a forester and writer based in Vermont, will talk about his book *How to Love a Forest* on Tuesday, April 8, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Fox State Forest (309 Center Road, Hillsborough). Free to the public. Walk-ins will be welcome but RSVPs are strongly encouraged; go to forestsociety.org/events.

• **Andru Volinsky** will talk about

his new book *The Last Bake Sale: The Fight for Fair School Funding* at Water Street Bookstore (125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com) on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m.

• **Abby Paige**, a Vermont playwright and performer, launches *Piecework / Travail à la pièce*, her bilingual book of plays exploring French Canadian heritage, with an event on Friday, April 11, at 7 p.m. at Saint Anselm College in Manchester. RSVP at facnh.org.

◀ KIDS CON FROM PG 11

co-write a comic book series called Eplis with my husband, Jeremy. I'm glad to still be doing this as an adult..." she said.

Access to art as well is a big catalyzing factor for Drouin to put on Kids Con.

"One of the reasons why I wanted to do Kids Con New England was I wanted there to be a resource, a place for kids to learn and create comics. Through our workshops we're hoping to inspire the next generation of creators. I wish there were more of these types of events when I was growing up ... it's a really awesome opportunity for kids to meet all these artists and authors and to get inspired ... we have storytelling workshops [and] writing workshops to get kids better at how to write stories as well as creating comics."

Many well-known and award-winning artists and illustrators will be in attendance, including Mark Parisi, Rick Stromoski, Chuck Dillon and Joe Wos.

Wos has won six Emmy awards as host and creator of PBS' *The Cartoon Academy*. He is also an educator and has been the

Charles M. Schulz Museum's resident cartoonist for more than 20 years.

"He's going to be doing a presentation at Kids Con..." Drouin said, "teaching kids how to do cartooning, how to draw, and so it's really a great place for kids to learn a lot. We also have several members of the National Cartoonist Society. So famous cartoonists are there."

"I think the visual aspect of storytelling is really engaging to kids.... In the '80s and early days, you know, there were mainly adult-themed comics, and now comics are very popular for kids. They have Dog Man and others out there. It's just really a way for kids to get excited about reading, I think, through the visuals and the colors, and it brings the characters to life. ... It's a really fun and exciting way to create and tell stories."

Drouin reflected on her journey running comic cons for kids.

"Since we've been running this for a decade [we've seen] all the kids that have been coming back each year to the shows ... it's really fun seeing the kids grow with us," Drouin said. 🍷


◀ EXETER LITFEST FROM PG 13

ball book this year. He's going to be coming back to Exeter Literary Festival this year with that book, and he's being interviewed by Dan Provost, who both teaches English at the high school and is also a baseball coach. So I think that should be a really fun conversation," she said.

"I like where we are right now. I like being able to be fundamentally a one-day event because the Exeter Town Hall is this really cool historic building and it's also

right in the middle of downtown where we have so many great shops, including our bookstore and restaurants. It's great to be able to bring people here and collaborate with the local businesses and make it sort of a great community day," Adams continued. "We have really worked on offering a variety of authors, perspectives, genres, so that we can both meet our readers where they are and also help introduce them to some new voices. That is definitely the balance I'd like to keep going forward," she said. 🍷

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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Jimi jamming:** The Hampton Beach concert season kicks off with **Experience Hendrix**. A packed slate of guitarists pay tribute to the “Purple Haze” legend, including Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Black Label Society’s Zakk Wylde, Eric Johnson, Devon Allman (of the Allman Betts Family Revival), Samantha Fish and Grammy winner Cristone “Kingfish” Ingram. Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom, 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, \$69 and up at ticketmaster.com.

• **Big belters:** Benefitting *A Better Way To Help, Ladies Sing the Blues* is a triple bill of talented singers. Janiva Magness turned a tragic origin story into a career as a singer, songwriter and author, Danielle Miraglia is also renowned for her guitar and stomp box skills, and Cheryl Arena’s skill set includes harmonica playing. The charity helps patients recovering from severe brain injuries. Friday, April 4, 7 p.m., Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry, \$40 and \$50 at tupelohall.com.

• **Charlie’s back:** Paying tribute to country rocker Charlie Daniels, **FiddleFire** makes its debut at a Mill District brewpub. The group is fronted by Vinnie Mirisola and promises “creative narratives” while recreating the music of Daniels, who joined his first band when Elvis was coming up. His fame grew in the early ’70s while touring with the Allman Brothers. Saturday, April 5, 9 p.m., Stark Brewing Co., 500 N. Commercial St., Manchester, facebook.com/TheFiddleFireBand.

• **Southern man:** The weekly Rap Night Manchester welcomes **Long Way From Home**, a tour originating in Richmond, Virginia. It’s led by Reppa Ton, now in his 20th year as a hip-hop artist, producer and director. He’s joined by fellow Richmond rappers Skinny Hendrix (the MC, not the California band) and TRIG. DJ Myth spins, with hosts Eyenine and Shawn Caliber. Sunday, April 6, 8 p.m., Shaskeen Pub, 909 Elm St., Manchester, facebook.com/RapNightManchester.

• **Anniversary nights:** To perform their 1999 box set *69 Love Songs*, **The Magnetic Fields** will do two downtown shows. Stephen Merritt was inspired to write the “miniaturist epic” after hearing a Manhattan gay bar piano player “grapple with Stephen Sondheim” and deciding to try theater music. The work was initially conceived as a drag queen revue. Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, \$53 and up at ccanh.com. 🍷

NITE Hopping jam

Superfrog in Dover ahead of big Concord show

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

When Nate Proper and Shane Comer formed Superfrog in 2006, it was a trio. At the time, Comer recalled in 2010, the two high school pals hoped it would eventually become “a large, boisterous family band.” It grew into a six-piece, and while a few members came and went, for the past 15 years, the jammy Seacoast band has been a tight-knit crew.

A rhythm section of Proper and Comer on bass and drums is rounded out by Phil Poggi and Jeremy “Fuzz” Grob on guitars, vintage keyboard whiz Max Chase and percussionist Adam Vinciguerra. Poggi left after contributing to their eponymous 2014 album but returned later and is now locked in with the others.

There’s clear chemistry as the six players trade licks on the aptly named “Years,” one of four new songs the band started releasing last fall. First Grob, then Poggi crank out crackling solos, then the band ticks up the tempo to set up a heaven-sent run by Chase on his Hammond B3, as Proper, Comer and Vinciguerra keep it chugging along rhythm-wise.

Proper wrote the song, and said during a recent joint interview with Comer that “Years” was built for jamming. “We definitely can stretch that one out and do,” he said.

Superfrog

When: Friday, April 4, 8 p.m.
Where: Auspicious Brew, 1 Washington St., Dover
Tickets: \$12 at auspiciousbrew.com (\$15 at the door)

Also at JamAntics reunion on Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., Concord, \$21 and up at ccanh.com

The three other new tunes were written by Poggi. “Battle of Blair Mountain” is about a 1921 incident in West Virginia described as the largest labor uprising in American history. “It was a bunch of coal miners going on strike and fighting Pinkertons,” Proper said. “I’m a union rep at my job, so I was all about it.”

A tune about new beginnings and grace, “Sinner” has a gospel feel, while the latest single, “Honestly,” has a solid, driving beat and is very danceable. This tunefulness is something all of Poggi’s songs share. “Phil,” observed Proper, “has been on an awesome songwriting kick lately.”

There are always a few tasty covers in shows. A Chase lead vocal makes Bill Withers’ “Kissing My Love” a real treat, and the Lionel Richie hit “All Night Long” is also wonderful. A standout and longtime set closer is “Shakedown Street,” with the Grateful Dead boogie gem augmented by a snippet of Deodada’s rock take on “Also Sprach Zarathustra.”

When time allows, work continues on a full-length album, but the focus remains on playing shows like the one upcoming at Auspicious Brew, their first at the Dover kombucha brewery. The following weekend they’ll return to Concord to share the BNH Stage at JamAntics’ JamAnnual GetDown reunion show.

The two bands have a shared history. “We played with them first way back, I don’t even know when, and we have played with them here and there throughout the years,” Comer said. JamAntics bassist Eric Reingold agreed. “Superfrog members are longtime friends and excellent musicians,” he said.

Reingold added that after a two-year hiatus the now almost traditional regrouping gig will be extra sweet.

“I’m extremely excited to get the band back together, as I love playing with all of



Superfrog. Courtesy photo.

these guys collectively and individually,” he said; Reingold’s latest band, Up, includes JamAntics guitarist Freeland Hubbard. Regarding Superfrog, “We always love sharing the stage with our friends, and can’t wait to blow the doors off this year.”

Having multiple creative forces can sink a band, but Superfrog stays a musical democracy.

Drummer Comer believes discipline plays a big part; the group practices regularly. “I know Max will say we’re one of the most consistent, and he’s in like 80 bands these days,” he said. “We try to be ... diligent, getting together once a week. It makes performing live easier when you’re just consistently trucking along.”

Summing up, Comer alluded to his early idea about the band.

“It actually goes to fundamentals,” he continued. “It’s just really knowing each other and learning how to get through those tense moments, because it is like a six-person family. It’s not always easy to navigate, but we have a lot of respect for each other and get through those moments pretty easily.” 🍷

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

• **Emo Phillips** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen in Manchester, 9 p.m.
• **Thursdays** Laugh Attic at Strange Brew in Manchester, 8:30 p.m.

Events

• **Lenny Clarke & Friends** Brickhouse in Milford, Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m.
• **Queen City Improv** BNH

Stage in Concord, Friday, April 4, 8 p.m.
• **Emo Phillips** McCue’s in Portsmouth, Friday, April 4, 8 p.m.
• **Rick Thomas** Rex in Manchester, Saturday, April 5, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 6, 2 p.m.
• **Christine Hurley/Kerri Louise/Kelly MacFarland** BNH Stage in Concord, Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
• **Steve Scarfo** Chunky’s in

Manchester, Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m.
• **Lenny Clarke** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, April 5, 8:30 p.m.
• **Jon Rudnitsky** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Sunday, April 6, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
• **Paul Virzi** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Thursday, April 10, 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
• **Couch to Mic** 3S Artspace

in Portsmouth, Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m.
• **Michael Palascak** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Friday, April 11, 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
• **Women of Boston Comedy** Rex in Manchester, Friday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
• **Paula Poundstone** Chubb Theatre in Concord, Friday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
• **Gary Gulman** Colonial in Laconia, Friday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
• **Annie Powell/Mark Scalia/**

Rob Steen Contocock American Legion, Saturday, April 12, 7 p.m.
• **Matt Shore Does Songs at You** Word Barn in Exeter, Saturday, April 12, 7 p.m.
• **Tracy Morgan** Chubb Theatre in Concord, Saturday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
• **Andrew Della Volpe** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Saturday, April 12, 8 p.m.
• **Ace Aceto/Brad Mastrangelo/Frank Santorelli** Nashua Center for the Arts, Saturday, April 12, 8 p.m.

MUSIC THIS WEEK

Alton Bay Foster's Tavern 403 Main St., 875-1234	Brookline The Alamo Texas Bar- becue & Tequila Bar 99 Route 13, 721-5000	Rockingham Road, 404- 6946	CR's The Restaurant 287 Exeter Road, 929- 7972	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon 92 Route 125, 369-6962	Great North Aleworks 1050 Holt Ave., 858- 5789	Stoncutters Pub 63 Union Square, 213-5979	Press Room 77 Daniel St., 431-5186
Amherst LaBelle Winery 345 Route 101, 672-9898	Chichester Flannel Tavern 345 Suncook Valley Road, 406-1196	LaBelle Winery 14 Route 111, 672-9898	The Goat 20 L St., 601- 6928	Laconia 405 Pub & Grill 405 Union St.	KC's Rib Shack 837 Second St., 627-RIBS	Moultonborough Buckey's 240 Governor Wentworth Hwy., 476- 5485	Thirsty Moose Tap- house 21 Congress St., 427-8645
Auburn Auburn Pitts 167 Rockingham Road, 622- 6564	Concord The Barley House 132 N. Main St., 228-6363	Dover Auspicious Brew 1 Washington St., 953- 7240	L Street Tavern 603 17 L St., 967-4777	Fratello's 799 Union Ave., 528-2022	Olympus Pizza 506 Valley St., 644-5559	Nashua Casey Magee's Irish Pub 8 Temple St., 484- 7400	Rochester Porter's 19 Hanson St., 330-1964
Barrington Nippo Lake Restau- rant 88 Stagecoach Road, nippobluegrass. com	The Forum Pub 15 Vil- lage St., 565-3100	Cara Irish Pub & Restaurant 11 Fourth St., 343-4390	Wally's Pub 144 Ash- worth Ave., 926-6954	Litchfield Day of the Dead Mex- ican Taqueria Mel's Funway Park, 454 Charles Bancroft High- way, 377-7664	Salona Bar & Grill 128 Maple St., 624-4020	Fody's Tavern 9 Clin- ton St., 577-9015	Salem Copper Door 41 S. Broadway, 458-2033
Barnstead Lower Eastside Pub 769 Suncook Valley Road, Center Barnstead, 269-0044	Hermanos Cocina Mexicana 11 Hills Ave., 224-5669	Epping Holy Grail 64 Main St., 679-9559	Whym Craft Pub & Brewery 853 Lafayette Road, 601-2801	Londonderry Coach Stop Restau- rant & Tavern 176 Mammoth Road, 437- 2022	Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm St., 625-0246	Peddler's Daughter 48 Main St., 821-7535	Dreo 254 N. Broadway, 824-6337
Bedford Copper Door 15 Leavy Drive, 488-2677	Lithermans 126B Hall St., 219-0784	Telly's Restaurant & Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy., 679-8225	Henniker Henniker Brewing Co. 129 Centerville Road, 428-3579	Stumble Inn 20 Rock- ingham Road, 432-3210	Shorty's Mexican Roadhouse 1050 Bicen- tennial Drive, 625-1730	South Side Tavern 48 Gusabel Ave., 882-4070	Seabrook Backyard Burgers & Wings 5 Provident Way, 760-2581
Bow Chen Yang Li 520 S. Bow St., 228-8508	Tandy's Pub & Grille 1 Eagle Square, 856-7614	Epsom Hill Top Pizzeria 1724 Dover Road, 736-0027	Hooksett Chantilly's Restaurant & Pub 1112 Hooksett Road, 625-0012	Manchester Backyard Brewery 1211 S. Mammoth Road, 623-3545	Stark Brewing Co. 500 Commercial St., 625- 4444	New Boston Molly's Tavern & Restaurant 35 Mont Vernon Road, 487-1362	Chop Shop Pub 920 Lafayette Road, 760- 7706
Bristol Kathleen's Irish Pub 90 Lake St., 744-6336	Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort Eddy Road, 226-8667	Exeter Sea Dog Brewing Co. 5 Water St., 793-5116	Hudson The Bar 2B Burnham Road	Bonfire 950 Elm St., 663-7678	Strange Brew 88 Mar- ket St., 666-4292	Newmarket Stone Church 5 Granite St., 659-7700	Red's Kitchen + Tav- ern 530 Lafayette Road, 760-0030
	Contoocook Gould Hill Farm & Contoocook Cider Co. 656 Gould Hill Road, 746-3811	Gilford Patrick's 18 Weirs Road, 293-0841	Luk's Bar & Grill 142 Lowell Road, 889-9900	Bookery 844 Elm St., 836-6600	Meredith Twin Barns Brewing 194 DW Highway, 279- 0876	Pembroke Pembroke City Limits 134 Main St., 210-2409, pembrokecitylimits.com	Somersworth Earth Eagle North 350 Route 108, 841-5421
	Deerfield The Lazy Lion 4 North Road, 463-7374	Goffstown Village Trestle 25 Main St., 497-8230	Lynn's 102 Tavern 76 Derry Road, 943-7832	Derryfield Country Club 625 Mammoth Road, 623-2880	Merrimack Homestead 641 DW Highway, 429-2022	Pittsfield Over the Moon 1253 Upper City Road, 216- 2162	Tilton Dox on Winnisquam 927 Laconia Road, 527- 8381
	Derry Fody's Tavern 187	Hampton Bogie's 32 Depot Square, 601-2319	Jaffrey Park Theatre 19 Main St., 532-9300	Fratello's 155 Dow St., 624-2022	Tortilla Flat 595 DW Highway, 424-4479	Portsmouth The Gas Light 64 Mar- ket St., 430-9122	Warner The Local 15 E. Main St., 456-3333
				The Goat 50 Old Gran- ite St.	Milford Brickhouse 241 Union Sq., 672-2270	Windham Windham Restaurant 59 Range Road, 870- 9270	
					Riley's Place 29 Mont Vernon St., 380-3480		

Thursday, April 3 Amherst LaBelle: The Joshua Tree, 7:15 p.m.	Derry Fody's: music bingo, 8 p.m. LaBelle: Being Petty, 7:15 p.m.	Hudson Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bisson, 8 p.m.	Milford Riley's Place: open mic, 7 p.m.	7 p.m.	Somersworth Earth Eagle: open mic w/Dave Ogden, 6 p.m.
Auburn Auburn Pitts: Firsty Thursday jam, 7 p.m.	Epping Telly's: 21st & 1st, 7 p.m.	Kingston Saddle Up Saloon: karaoke w/DJ Jason, 7 p.m.	Nashua Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m. Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m. Shorty's: Pat Foley, 6 p.m.	Pittsfield Over the Moon: open mic, 6 p.m.	Warner The Local: Chris Lester, 5 p.m.
Bedford Copper Door: Lou Antonucci, 7 p.m.	Goffstown Village Trestle: Chuck & Vinnie, 6 p.m.	Laconia 405 Pub and Grill: Absent Mind- ed, 6 p.m. Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.	Pembroke Pembroke City Limits: Fredo,	Salem Copper Door: Lewis Goodwin, 7 p.m.	Windham Windham Restaurant: Chad LaMarsh, 7 p.m.
Chichester Flannel Tavern: Good Vibes music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.	Hampton CR's: Steve Sibulkin, 6 p.m. L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m. Wally's: Karaoke Idol semifinals, 8 p.m. Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.	Londonderry Stumble Inn: D-Comp, 7 p.m.			

Music, live and in person

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



BIG LAUGHS

Queen City Improv was founded in 2017: "Our comedy shows feature a variety of short-form and long-form improv games, all of which are designed to make the audience laugh and have a good time," according to queencityimprov.com. Don't miss their show at BNH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, banknhstage.com) on Friday, April 4. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees, and the laughs begin at 8 p.m.

Friday, April 4
Alton Bay
Foster’s Tavern: Jack Ancora, 6 p.m.

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Friday’s Alibi, 7 p.m.

Barnstead
The Lower East Side Pub: Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy’s: Jonny Friday, 6 p.m.

Bristol
Kathleen’s: Irish Session, 7 p.m.

Campton
Mad River Coffee: JD & The Stonemasons, 7 p.m.

Concord
Forum: Mikey G, 8 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Super Frog, 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Max Sullivan, 6 p.m.
Telly’s: Jamie Hughes, 8 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Rose Kula, 6 p.m.

Hampton
CR’s: The Cats, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally’s: Kingdom Collapse, 9 p.m.
Whym: Clint Lapointe, 6 p.m.

Hooksett
Chantilly’s: Hannah’s Ghost, 8 p.m.

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

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

Laconia
405 Pub and Grill: Dakota Smart, 7 p.m.
Fratello’s: Kyle Sumais, 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: Party On Band, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Dan Fallon, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: Neon Rodeo, 8 p.m.
Derryfield: Bob Pratt Band, 8:30 p.m.
Foundry: Willy Chase, 6 p.m.
Fratello’s: Doug Thompson, 6 p.m.
Olympus Pizza: Stephen Decuire, 7 p.m.
Shaskeen: Rabbit’s Foot, Fox & The Flamingos, 8 p.m.
South Side Tavern: Cox Karaoke, 9 p.m.
Strange Brew: Frank & Melvern, 5 p.m.; Faith Ann Acoustic, 8 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: Tom Boisse, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Milford
Brickhouse: Code Switch, 8 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: DJ Dave O karaoke, 9 p.m.

Moultonborough
Buckey’s: Rob & Jody, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua
Casey Magee’s: karaoke, 9:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly’s: Lewis Goodwin, 6:30 p.m.

Newmarket
Stone Church: Camarajuana, 8 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Lucas Gallo, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Matt Luneau, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.
Press Room: Truffle, 6 p.m.; DJ D-Rowe Beatz, 10 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Undercover, 9:30 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Phil Jacques, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Night Owls Land, 8:30 p.m.
Red’s: Chad Verbeck, 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 5
Alton Bay
Foster’s Tavern: Dave Clark, 6 p.m.

Bedford
Murphy’s: Ralph Allen, 6 p.m.

Bow
Chen Yang Li: Ryan Williamson, 7 p.m.

Concord
Forum: Under 12 acoustic circle, 1 p.m.; Acoustic Circle, 2 p.m.; JD and the Stonemasons, 8 p.m.

Contoocook
Contoocook Cider Co.: Tyler Levs, 1 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Winkler Lady Pills Footings, 8 p.m.

Epping
Holy Grail: Peter Pappas, 6 p.m.
Telly’s: Brian Johnson, 8 p.m.

Epsom
Hill Top: Mixed Tape Heroez, 7 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: J-Lo, 6 p.m.

Hampton
Bogie’s: open mic, 4 p.m.; Brian and Cliff Gelina, 8 p.m.
The Goat: James Stark, 9 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally’s: 80’s Rewind Party w/ Wildside, 9 p.m.
Whym: Liz Ridgely, 6 p.m.

Henniker
Henniker Brewing: Spare Souls, 3 p.m.

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill: Ian Archibold, 7 p.m.
Fratello’s: Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Joanie Cikatelli, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Small Town Stranded, 8 p.m.

Manchester
Backyard Brewery: Rebecca Turnel, 6 p.m.
Bonfire: The Mockingbirds, 8 p.m.
Derryfield: Swipe Right Band, 8:30 p.m.
Foundry: Danny McCarthy, 6 p.m.
Fratello’s: Stephen Decuire, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Musical Brunch with Brooks Hubbard, 10 a.m.; Feverdog, 9 p.m.
Great North Aleworks: Paul Driscoll, 4 p.m.
Shaskeen: Big D & The Kids Table, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Racky Thomas Band, 9 p.m.

Meredith
Twin Barns: Justin Federico, 5 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: John Chouinard, 6 p.m.

Milford
Brickhouse: Radio Roulette, 8 p.m.
Riley’s: Murphy Clark Band, 8 p.m.

Nashua
Peddler’s Daughter: GoodFoot, 9:30 p.m.

New Boston
Molly’s: Jody Frawlee, 6:30 p.m.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Taylor Hughes, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth
Gas Light: Jake Plante, 9:30 p.m.
The Goat: Mike Jetti, 9 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Them Apples, 9:30 p.m.

Rochester
American Legion Post 7: JMitch Karaoke, 7 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Dani Sven, 7 p.m.

Seabrook
Red’s: Jamie Hughes, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 6
Barrington
Nippo Lake Restaurant: Cedar Mountain, 6 p.m.

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

Chichester
Flannel Tavern: Jennifer Mitchell, 4 p.m.

Epsom
Hill Top: Dan’s Jam open mic, 4 p.m.

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Ralph Allen, 3:30 p.m.

Hampton
CR’s: Just The Two Of Us, 6 p.m.
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello’s: Kyle Dumais, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: On Two Duo, 4 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.

Pembroke
Pembroke City Limits: Sunday Jazz with Gary, 1:30 p.m.

Portsmouth
Press Room: Sunday Jazz Brunch, Joe Pino Quintet, 12 p.m.

Salem
Copper Door: Nate Comp, 11 a.m.

Monday, April 7
Dover
Cara Irish Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

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

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

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

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

Manchester
Fratello’s: Phil Jacques, 5:30 p.m.
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Merrimack
Homestead: Jodee Frawlee, 5:30 p.m.

Milford
Brickhouse: Line Dancing with Cathy, 6:30 p.m.

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

Portsmouth
Press Room: Nels Cline, 7 p.m.



BUSTER KEATON FROM VENUS

In the 1980s **Emo Phillips** cut an unusual profile in the burgeoning stand-up comedy scene. His comedy spots on *Late Night with David Letterman* and his tour with “Weird Al” Yankovic brought him to a wide audience, and his album *E=mo2* was influential to a generation of avant garde comedians. He beams down to McCue’s (580 Portsmouth Traffic Circle, Portsmouth, mccuescomedyclub.com) on Friday, April 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 plus fees.



MOST VALUABLE COMEDIAN

Looking for a reliably hilarious comedian? Check out **Steve Scarfo**. This 25-year veteran of the New England comedy scene has been hitting comedy home runs with his unique angle on observational material, and his frequent appearances in movies like *The Departed* and *The Fighter* have made him a valuable team player. He returns to Chunky’s (707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com) on Friday, April 4, at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$20 plus fees.

Tilton

Dox: Justin Jordan, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8

Concord

Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.

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

Goffstown

Village Trestle: Tom Dixon, 6 to 9 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Laconia

Fratello's: Duke Snyder, 5:30 p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Chris Cavanaugh, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: karaoke w/ George Cox, 8 p.m.

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

Merrimack

Homestead: Jordan Quinn, 5:30 p.m.

Portsmouth

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: Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9

Alton Bay

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

Concord

Forum: Dalton Lite, 8 p.m.

Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.

Uno Pizzeria: Ryan Williamson, 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.

Laconia

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

Manchester

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

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

Stark Brewing: Cox karaoke, 8 p.m.

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

Merrimack

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

Milford

Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Stonecutters Pub: open mic, 8 p.m.

Portsmouth

Press Room: The Ophelias w/ Alexander & Don't Tell Iris, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Red's: Fred Ellsworth, 7 p.m.

Film

• *Black Bag* (R, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatres.org, on Thursday, April 3, at 4:15 p.m.

• *Snow White* (PG, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord, redrivertheatre.org, on Thursday, April 3, at 4 & 6:30 p.m.; Friday, April 4, through Sunday, April 6, at 1, 3:45 & 6:15 p.m.; Monday, April 7, through Thursday, April 10, at 3:45 & 6:15 p.m.

• *The Chosen: Last Supper Part 1 (Episode 1 & 2)* will screen via Fathom Events, fathomevents.com, will screen at Apple Cinemas Merrimack and Hooksett, Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem, O'neil Cinemas in Brickyard Squared in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington through Sunday, April 20. See the website for specific days and times.

• *The Friend* (R, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at 1:15, 4 & 6:45 p.m.; Monday, April 7, through Thursday, April 10, at 4 & 6:45 p.m.

• *Secret Mall Apartment* (NR, 2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.; Monday, April 7, through Thursday, April 10, at 4:30 & 6:30 p.m.

• *King Kong* (1933) will screen at the Park Theatre in Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org, on Friday, April 4, at 7 p.m.

• *Centered: Joe Lieberman* (2024), a documentary, will screen as part of the NH Jewish Film Festival (nhjewishfilmfestival.org) at Red River Theatres in Concord on Sunday, April 6, at 1 p.m. with a prerecorded conversation with the filmmaker.

• *Sing* (PG, 2016) on the big screen at Nashua Center for the Arts (201 Main St. in Nashua; nashuacenterforthearts.com) on Sunday, April 6, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$10.

• *The Prince of Egypt* (PG, 1998) the animated movie will screen as a "free PJ library event" as part of the NH Jewish Film Festival (nhjewishfilmfestival.org) at Red River Theatres in Concord on Sunday, April 6, at 1:30 p.m.

• *Bad Shabbos* (2024), a comedy, will screen as part of the NH Jewish Film Festival (nhjewishfilmfestival.org) at Red River Theatres in Concord on Sunday, April 6, at 3:30 p.m.

• "Before They Could Speak: Laurel & Hardy in the Silent Film Era," a program featuring the silent films of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy including *Two Tars* (1928), *The Finishing Touch* (1928) and *You're Darn Tootin'* (1928), will be presented Wednesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St. in Concord.

• *The Chosen: Last Supper Part 3 (Episode 6-8)* will screen via Fathom Events, fathomevents.com, will screen at Apple Cinemas Merrimack and Hooksett, Cinemark Rockingham Park in Salem, O'neil Cinemas in Brickyard Squared in Epping and Regal Fox Run in Newington Thursday, April 10, through Sunday, April 20. See the website for specific days and times.

• *Ben Hur* (1925), a silent film presented with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis, at Wilton Town Hall Theatre on Sunday, April 13, at 2 p.m.

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Trivia

Trivia events
• **Empire Records** trivia Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Chunky’s in Manchester (chunkys.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, reedsnorth.com) from 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia at Station 101 (193 Union Sq., Milford, 249-5416) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** music trivia at Day of the Dead Taqueria (454 Charles Bancroft Hwy., Litchfield, 377-7664) at 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with Geeks Who Drink at the Barley House (132 N. Main St., Concord, the-

- barleyhouse.com) at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at The Derryfield (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, thederryfield.com) 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Hart’s Turkey Farm (223 DW Highway, Meredith, 279-6212, hartsturkeyfarm.com) 7
- **Thursday** Opinioning 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 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.
- **Tuesday** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) 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 at the Forum Pub (15 Village St., Concord, 552-0137), at 8 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** Brews & Qs trivia, 21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) at 6 p.m.
- **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglass-brewing.com) at 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, eastderry-tavern.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 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 Gate City Casino Lounge (55 Northeastern Blvd., Nashua, thegatecitycasino.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.

Concerts

- **Evil Woman** (ELO tribute) Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord
- **Fireside Collective** Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter
- **Fredo!** Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **Lonesome Ace String Band** Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose in New London
- **Will Dailey** Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy’s in Portsmouth
- **Lucy Wainwright Roche** Thursday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth
- **Jethro Tull’s Martin Barre** Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- **Experience Hendrix** Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
- **Molly Grace** Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace in Ports-

- mouth
- **Being Petty** (Tom Petty tribute) Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry
- **The Joshua Tree** (U2 tribute) Thursday, April 3, 8 p.m., LaBelle Amhest
- **Truffle** Friday, April 4, 6 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth
- **Lucas Gallo** Friday, April 4, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **Daybreak** (Barry Manilow tribute) Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., Palace in Manchester
- **Redneck Castaway/Red Solo Cup** Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey in Plymouth
- **Rock This Town Orchestra** (Stray Cats/Brian Setzer tribute) Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House
- **Ladies Sing the Blues** Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- **The Breakers** (Tom Petty tribute) Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **Chris Janson** Friday, April

- 4, 8 p.m., Music Hall in Portsmouth
- **Seth Glier** Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth
- **Camarojuana** Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket
- **The Orrs/Otis** Friday, April 4, 8 p.m., Button Factory Stage in Portsmouth
- **Studia/Jed Allen & The Regals** Saturday, April 5, 6:30 p.m., Milk St. Studios in Dover
- **Taylor Hughes** Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **Whitestake, the Whitesnake Experience, and Looks that Kill, the ultimate Motley Crue Tribute** Saturday, April 5, 7 p.m., Jewel in Manchester
- **Jeremih** Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., SNHU Arena in Manchester
- **Scott Kirby** Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth

- **Rock & Roll Circus** Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey
- **The Jive Aces** Saturday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy’s in Portsmouth
- **Changes in Latitudes** (Jimmy Buffett tribute) Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House
- **The Breakers** (Tom Petty tribute) Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., Colonial in Laconia
- **Harry Chapin’s Greatest Stories** Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- **Echoes of Floyd** (Pink Floyd tribute) Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket
- **Red Baraat** Saturday, April 5, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace in Portsmouth
- **New Legacy Swing Band** Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m., Rex in Manchester
- **Red Baraat** Sunday, April 6, 3 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
- **Andrea Paquin** Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m., Cantin Room at BNH Stage in Concord
- **Evan Goodrow** Sunday, April 6, 6 p.m., Andres Institute in Brookline
- **Klezmer Conservatory Band** Sunday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Concord City Auditorium
- **Melissa Etheridge** Sunday, April 6, 8 p.m., Casino Ballroom in Hampton
- **Nels Cline** Monday, April 7, 7 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth
- **Foxglove** Monday, April 7, 7 p.m., Jimmy’s in Portsmouth
- **The Magnetic Fields** Tuesday, April 8, and Wednesday, April

- 9, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord
- **Robert Cray** Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall in Portsmouth
- **The Ophelias** Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth
- **Clem Snide** Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter
- **Cinnamon Jazz Band** Wednesday, April 9, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **Voctave** Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **Piano Battle: Andreas Kern/ Paul Cibis** Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m., Chubb Theatre in Concord
- **A Jazz Milestone** (Miles Davis tribute) Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
- **Matt Michienzie Band/Stillwater** Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth
- **Los Sugar Kings** Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods in Meredith
- **Fretbenders** Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **Sam Robbins** Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose in New London
- **Pousette-Dart Duo** Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., Rex in Manchester
- **Scott Brown & the Diplomats** Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy’s in Portsmouth
- **Broommaker/Eternal Slumber** Thursday, April 10, 8 p.m., Button Factory in Portsmouth
- **Nels Cline: Consentrik Quar-**

- tet** Thursday, April 10, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **The Hazel Project/The Mountain** Friday, April 11, 7 p.m., Word Barn in Exeter
- **Heart Attack Ack Ack Ack** (Billy Joel tribute) Friday, April 11, 7 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth
- **Grateful Dads** (Grateful Dead tribute) Friday, April 11, 7 p.m., Park Theatre in Jaffrey
- **Monkey Fingers** Friday, April 11, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **Almost Queen** Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts
- **The Phil Collins Experience** Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., Tupelo in Derry
- **Pink Talking Fish** (Pink Floyd/Talking Heads/Phish tribute) Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., Rochester Opera House
- **Jamnatics/Superfrog** Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., BNH Stage in Concord
- **Primal Soup** Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., Stone Church in Newmarket
- **Grace Guggenheim** Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., Button Factory Stage in Portsmouth
- **Olivia Conway** Saturday, April 12, 3 p.m., Pembroke City Limits
- **The Stray Horses Perform Harvest Moon** by Neil Young Saturday, April 12, 6 p.m., Press Room in Portsmouth
- **Derek Astles** Saturday, April 12, 7 p.m., Pembroke City Limits



TRAD IS RAD

You won’t be lonesome if you go to a **Lonesome Ace Stringband** show. This Americana trio honed their bluegrass and folk music in bars and nightclubs in Toronto and have brought their invigorating live shows to festival audiences around the world. Their tour for their latest album, *Try to Make It*, takes them to the Flying Goose (40 Andover Road, New London, 526-6899, flyinggoose.com) on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$25 plus fees.

Despite all my rage

Across

1. 1st Smashing Pumpkins single on 37. Across
 5. Blondie ‘The Tide ___’
 11. ‘Too Young’ ___ King Cole
 14. ‘I Remember You’ ___ Row
 15. The Blowfish leader?
 16. “If I was a sculptor, but then again no, ___ man who makes potions in a travelingshow”
 17. Every Picture ___
 19. Colored plastic sheet for light
 20. Grateful Dead ‘Viola ___ Blues’
 21. Lorne Michaels show with music
 22. David Lee Roth can jump high for a ‘Slam ___’
23. Mr. Santana
 26. ‘91 Get Up Kids album
 28. ‘Sex & Religion’ guitar virtuoso Steve
 29. Sum 41 got a ‘___ Lip’ in a fight
 30. David Soul ‘Don’t Give Up ___’
 31. Gigs put you up in lodges or these
 33. ‘12 Three Days Grace album ‘___ Of Venus’
 37. Smashing Pumpkins first album
 38. ‘73 Humble Pie album making you finish lunch
 39. Virginia horror shock-rockers
 43. What the band XTC will put you in?

45. Imogen Heap __, Oh My’
 46. ‘Suicide Is Painless’ is the theme song from this Alan Alda show
 48. UK Ambient house band
 50. ‘Every Heartbeat’ Grant
 51. Melissa Etheridge ‘Come To My Window’ album (3,1,2)
 54. ‘85 Stevie Ray Vaughan album ‘___ Soul’
 56. Electronic Brits that are not in stereo?
 57. ‘Twistin’ The Night Away’ Cooke
 59. The Cars leader Ocasek
 60. Bob Dylan “Somebody got murdered on New Year’s ___”
 61. Watery part of Brooklyn used for Death Cab For Cutie song
 66. Out-of-print album treasure
 67. Like band that sticks together
 68. Robert Plant “I will bring my song for you ___ will carry on”
 69. Adelitas Way ‘Dog ___ Leash’
 70. Barbershop quartet members
 71. Liberace song that means “Bye!”

2. Frank Zappa guitarist Willis
 3. Verve Pipe ‘Freshmen’ album
 4. Steven of Guns And Roses
 5. James of Smashing Pumpkins
 6. The Police send one “to the world” if stranded
 7. Red ___ candy may help with no leaving seat for water
 8. Soul Asylum “She’s walkin’ away, just give ___ more try”
 9. Devo misspell ‘80 hit ‘___ Want’
 10. ___ Leonardo (She Likes Me For Me)
 11. ‘86 Van Morrison album ‘___ ___, No Method, No Teacher’
 12. Venues for world famous acts
 13. Repeated word in ‘It’s My Life’ band name 18. Soundgarden “Leaning on the pedestal that holds my ___ denial”
 22. Motley Crue “Girl, ___ away mad”
 23. Tribe Called Quest came to hang: ‘___ Kick It?’
 24. ‘Method Of Modern Love’ Hall & ___
 25. Richie Sambora has this signature model axe (abbr)

27. Smashing Pumpkins “And what ___ get for my pain? Betrayed desires”
 28. Producer Butch
 32. Tal Bachman ‘___ High’
 34. Johnny Cash ‘One Piece ___ Time’
 35. Fleetwood Mac’s Stevie
 36. ‘10 Gorillaz single
 40. Aerosmith “___ honey? I feel like the color blue”
 41. Minus The Bear ‘Guns & ___’
 42. Lana Del ___
 44. Smashing Pumpkins are from Chicago or ___-Town
 46. Spencer Wiggins ‘Who’s Been Warming ___’
 47. Tool’s ‘98 Grammy-winning song
 49. Half of ‘Pretty In Pink band, w/Psychedelic
 52. Paul Stanley ‘Take Me Away (Together ___)’
 53. Thievery Corporation ‘The Riches ___ Babylon’
 55. Jeff Buckley’s ‘Wine’ is like this pale purple flower
 56. 3 Doors Down was being held and sang ‘Let ___’
 58. Beck “Modern guilt won’t get ___ bed”
 61. ‘97 Jackyl album ‘___ The Crap’
 62. Blur asks if you ‘Got ___!’
 63. Need these to drink
 64. Non-disclosure agreement (abbr)
 65. ‘Holy Diver’ band

Down

1. SoCal Subhumans label

R&R answer from pg 31 of 3/27

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

Jonesin’ answer from pg 32 of 3/27

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

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

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

Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku
 Puzzle B

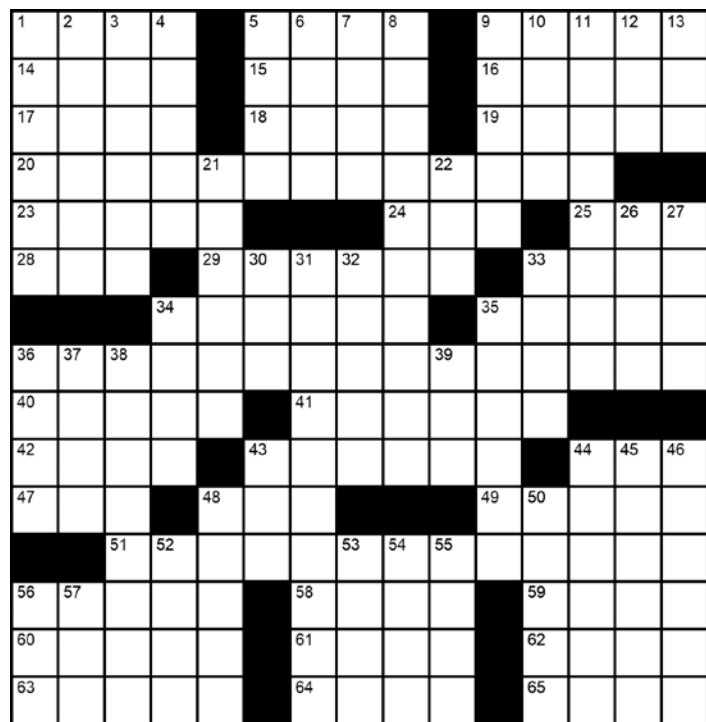
		7	8	6	5	4			2
6			7		4	9			5
		5		3	2	1			
	7	1			3				8
	5				1	7			
2			5	4			9	1	
		4		7					
		8	4			5		7	
		9		5		8	2	4	

Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku
 Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★



1. Actress Stone
5. “Booyakasha!” speaker
9. Picture’s perimeter
14. Money repaid with interest
15. “Blade Runner 2049” actor Jared
16. Enthusiast
17. “A Man ____ Importance” (musical based on a 1994 film)
18. Suffix after teen
19. High-level
20. “Provided the whole thing’s a solo effort”?
23. Capital home to Willamette University
24. Feature of “j” but not “J”
25. “All Things Considered” host Shapiro
28. Greek vowel
29. Gargamel’s cat
33. Evita’s husband
34. Least likely to mix
35. “Book ‘em, ____!” (“Hawaii Five-O” catchphrase)
36. What happens when the first preservation doesn’t seal?
40. Arm bones
41. Paul of “Mad About You”
42. Severance
43. Psychologist Abraham known for his “hierarchy of needs”
44. Bee prefix
47. A.L. East squad, on scoreboards
48. 2025 Fox medical drama where the main character suffers a brain injury

49. "The Thursday Murder Club" author Richard
51. Horror movie where the clown trades a balloon for a bouquet?
56. Informal summons
58. Think tank output
59. Pt. of MIT
60. Performance space
61. Bad sign

63. LP's other half
64. World's longest river
65. Rain protector

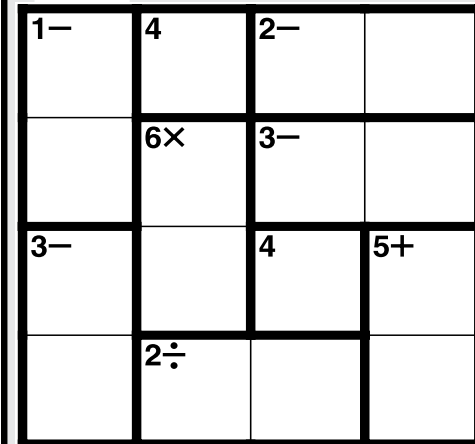
1. Plaza Hotel kid
2. “SNL” alum Alex
3. Site of an Ali-Frazier showdown
4. + end of a battery
5. “‘Tis a pity”
6. Interlockable brand
7. Piece of info
8. Shocking tidbit, maybe
9. Admiral’s ships
10. One in a restaurant basket
11. Birds of a given region
12. Annual host of a notable gala
13. Before, in poems
21. Plains natives
22. Sun, in Spain
26. Punjabi princess
27. Part of, as a plot
30. CA red wine
31. News error follow-up
32. Biennial cricket match between England and Australia, with “the”
33. Hockey legend Jaromir
34. “The Acrobat of ____” (Al Jarreau epithet)
35. Korean carmaker bought by GM
36. Mongolian tent
37. Miscellany
38. Drop on Facebook
39. “General” on menus
43. Miss Piggy, to herself

44. Chief deity of Egypt
45. Sentence breaker-downer
46. Arched foot part
48. Dorky person
50. “The Tortured Poets I
ment” artist
52. “That does add up”
53. Computer-to-TV cable
54. Sense

- 55. Olympic pool division
- 56. Chain with long receipts
- 57. "Kill Bill" tutor Pai

KEN 賢 KEN

EASY



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WORKSPACE:

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20×		3+		10+	5−
1−	120×				
		10+	3	3÷	
5−	6+			12+	
		16+	2÷		
2				3−	

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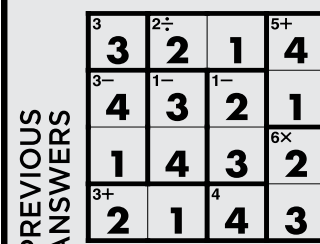
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12-12-24

- 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. E



11+	6	5	1	24X	3	2
60X	5	3	4	3+	3-	11+
	4	5-	36X	3	2	6
2-	1	6	2	15X	3	5
	2	4	6	11+	6+	1
	3	2	5	6	4	1

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WORD ★ Roundup™

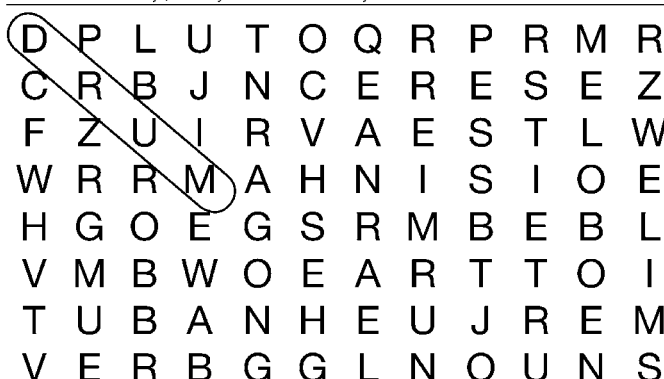
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Six four-letter musical instruments
Four facial expressions
Three rodents
Three dwarf planets
Two parts of speech

Last Week's Answers: BUTTER FLOUR YEAST SUGAR SALT / SCHOOL
SHIFT GAME / MOTOROLA SAMSUNG APPLE / ARMY NAVY / EDGAR
ALLAN

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3/4



SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Eat My Globe*, by Simon Majumdar, born April 7, 1964.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *No, I will not be wanting a deep-fried banana in breadcrumbs. Not now, not ever, never. It's good to know what you want.*

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *I asked the waiter what was in the sauce. In the United States, if you are silly enough to ask such a question they can easily spend as much time describing a dish as the chef did cooking it. ... 'It's a gravy,' my waiter responded. 'Yes, but what's in it?' I pressed and he headed off to ask someone who might know. Find someone who knows.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *The pizza arrived. It looked as I imagine a good pizza should.... It was a good example of the genre, but I just don't like the genre.... Credit where it's due.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *After the relative disappointments of Sydney and its contests with London and New York, Melbourne was an immediately appealing city. Its laid-back inhabitants seem content to live in a great Australian city, and it really is a great Australian city. Enough is enough.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *I was organizing a project. The fact that I was doing it at home and was never more than a five-second walk from a cookie was just an added bonus. Stay close to the cookies.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *The fries were good too, although I was disappointed that the variety cooked in duck fat, which I had read so much about, was only available on Fridays. Another day, another fry.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *Where Delhi seemed, by comparison, sedate and a little staid, Mumbai crackles with raw energy. Everybody's got a vibe.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Hunting in Finland is a way of life. The Finns do not think that their meat and fish come in choice cuts wrapped in plastic. That plastic doesn't just wrap itself.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Every Australian has a built-in concept they call 'fair goes,' which basically means that you have to give people and things a chance. Fair goes.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *I love pie in all its forms, but meat pies in particular are a constant source of wonder: Look for the wonder.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *Fast food in Japan is a huge business and a number of chains have arisen to feed those who want to eat and leave in the space of fifteen minutes. In most, you choose from a menu outside before setting foot in the restaurant.... First choose, then eat.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *By the time we got to Kyoto, I was all shrined out. Which is a bit of a shame as Kyoto is officially the home of two thousand shrines. Sometimes you just need a break.*

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

- 1 raining lightly (9)
- 2 raining with force (7)
- 3 raining a little (10)
- 4 raining sporadically (8)
- 5 raining briefly (9)
- 6 raining softly (7)
- 7 raining cats and dogs (7)

SOLUTIONS

INK	MIST	LING	RI	LT
NG	SPIT	OW	SH	NG
IZZL	PE	ERI	DR	POU
NG	ING	TING	SPR	ING

Last Week's Answers: 1. NEWBORN 2. NITROGEN 3. NYLON 4. NAPOLEON 5. NAAN 6. NAPKIN 7. NORTHERN

Sudoku Answers from pg31 of 3/27

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★ 3/10

Puzzle B

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

Difficulty: ★★ 3/11

Puzzle C

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 3/13

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Don't Try This at Home

The Daily Express reported that a couple in Jilin, China, were forced to visit a hospital on March 18 after the woman's hand became stuck in her boyfriend's mouth. They were testing whether her hand would fit in his mouth when the muscles in his mouth spasmed, preventing her from pulling her hand out. The man's face turned red and he began salivating, and his teeth were clamped down on her hand. "It felt like my hand was stuck in a meat grinder," she said. At the hospital, doctors administered muscle relaxants to the man, and after about 20 minutes, the woman was able to remove her hand. *Daily Express, March 24*

Awesome!

Paul Broome, 55, of Bognor, England, specified in his will that he wanted to be buried in a Snickers bar-themed coffin, NDTV reported on March 24. So when he passed on, his family got to work. Broome was a care assistant for adults with learning disabilities and a big fan of the chocolate bar and the Crystal Palace FC. His coffin, which was painted to look like a half-unwrapped Snickers, also said "I'm nuts" on the side and featured the football club's logo. "Paul's fami-

ly informed us that he was one of life's true characters, and his farewell needed to reflect that," said Ali Leggo of FA Holland Funeralcare. *NDTV, March 24*

Latest Religious Message

Suckers, take note! Senior adviser to the White House Faith Office Paula White-Cain has a Passover deal for you, Raw Story reported on March 24, but only if you send her \$1,000 before Easter. With that donation, she promises, you'll receive seven "Blessings of Passover," which include an angel assigned to you by God, long life, "an increase for inheritance" and a special year of blessing. "You're not doing this to get something," she clarified on a video, "but you're doing it in honor of God, realizing what you can receive." One featured gift is a 10-inch-tall Waterford crystal cross (retail, \$100, but on sale at Waterford.com for 30% off). Nine years ago, White-Cain sold a rock for \$1,144 that she billed as a "resurrection seed." *Raw Story, March 24*

Oh, By the Way ...

Passengers aboard the Cunard Line's cruiser Queen Anne received an alarming message from the ship's captain on

March 13, the Independent reported. "This area is known for piracy threats," the announcement said as the ship traveled between Australia and Manila. It went on to say that the external promenade deck would be closed overnight and "deck lights will be on to reduce the ship's external lighting." Passengers were also asked to turn off stateroom lights and keep their window shades down. A representative for Cunard said there was "no specific threat to the ship or its guests, and our onboard experience remained uninterrupted." *Independent, March 26*

Weird in the Wild

Napa County, California's Morning Glory Spillway, a passive spillway in Lake Berryessa, hadn't been used since 2019, IFLScience.com reported on March 25. But starting in February and continuing through March, the so-called "glory hole" has been busy draining excess water from the lake into Putah Creek. When lake levels exceed 440 feet, the water spills into a vortex that looks like a giant sink drain from above. The water falls 200 feet before rushing into the creek. Large amounts of rainfall have contributed to the higher lake levels.

Least Competent Criminals

Some people just can't shut up. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife announced on Feb. 25 that it had settled a case of illegal possession of remains of an endangered species, KCRA-TV reported. The investigation began in late 2023 when two plainclothes CDFW officers were on a flight and struck up a conversation with a couple seated near them. The couple admitted to having a green sea turtle skull in their luggage — a species that is endangered and illegal to possess and transport in the U.S. The couple went on to brag about having taken a mountain lion, protected in California, and a family member's possession of multiple taxidermied mountain lions, a wolverine and wolves. After landing, the officers filed search warrants on the couple's home in Chico, as well as the family member's home in Napa. The searches turned up more illegal species. All three defendants reached plea deals and were convicted of various violations. *KCRA, Feb. 26*

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

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