

the Hippo

APRIL 23 - 29, 2026

INDEPENDENT
BOOKSTORE DAY P. 18

COFFEE & MINI
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ON THE COVER

8 John Fladd serves up a helping of food trucks, looking at these niche businesses that offer everything from coffee and doughnuts to arepas. John also has a longer conversation with the operator of one of the trucks, Cup of Ambition (see page 22), a truck that serves coffee and hot mini doughnuts. Photo above and on the cover is of Riley O'Loughlin, owner of the food truck Teenie Wienies, courtesy O'Loughlin.

ALSO ON THE COVER, Saturday, April 25, is Independent Bookstore Day. John also takes a look at how local bookstores are celebrating (page 18). And this week's Kiddie Pool, which starts on page 17, is super-sized to help you find happenings during spring vacation week, which is next week for New Hampshire schools. Find spring happenings, extra museum hours and more.

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EDITORIAL

Executive Editor

Amy Diaz
adiaz@hippypress.com

Editorial Design

Jennifer Gingras
hippolayout@gmail.com

Copy Editor

Lisa Parsons
lparsons@hippypress.com

Features Editor

John Fladd, ext. 130
jfladd@hippypress.com

Contributors Michelle Belliveau, Jennifer Graham, Henry Homeyer, Chelsea Kearin, Dave Long, Eric W. Saeger, Meghan Siegler, Dan Szczesny, Michael Witthaus

Listings

Arts listings: arts@hippypress.com
Inside/Outside listings: listings@hippypress.com
Food & Drink listings: food@hippypress.com
Music listings: music@hippypress.com

BUSINESS

Publisher

Jody Reese, Ext. 121
jreese@hippypress.com

Associate Publisher

Dan Szczesny

Associate Publisher

Jeff Rapsis
jrapsis@hippypress.com

Production

Jennifer Gingras, Nathan Hoell

Circulation

Ext. 35

Advertising Manager

Charlene Nichols, Ext. 126
cnichols@hippypress.com

Account Executives

Alyse Savage, 603-493-2026
asavage@hippypress.com
Roxanne Macaig, Ext. 127
rmacaig@hippypress.com
Tammie Boucher, support staff, Ext. 150

To place an ad call 625-1855, Ext. 126
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NEWS & NOTES

Drought and wildfires

Drought conditions in New Hampshire persist despite this winter's snow and the most recent rain, according to an April 20 press release from the New Hampshire Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

"Dating back to when measurements were first recorded in 1895, January-March 2026 was the sixth driest first quarter for precipitation on record in the state," the release said. "The U.S. Drought Monitor reports that 78 percent of the state is currently experiencing moderate to severe drought, and drought.gov, the National Integrated Drought Information System, notes that 725,800 Granite Staters — approximately half of the state's residents — live in areas of elevated drought conditions," the release said. The drought conditions also mean that there is an elevated wildfire risk, the release said. According to the map at drought.gov, 96 percent of Hillsborough County is "abnormally dry" with a little over 3 percent considered to be in "moderate drought." Merrimack County has areas that are "abnormally dry" as well as 30 percent of its area listed as in "moderate drought" and

nearly 59 percent of the county listed as in "severe drought," the website said. In Rockingham County, 32 percent of the county is "abnormally dry" with 57 percent experiencing "moderate drought" and 10 percent in "severe drought," the website said.

"Last year, New Hampshire experienced a 27.6 percent increase in the number of wildfires and a 16.8 percent increase in the number of acres burned due to wildfires," said Chief Steven Sherman of the New Hampshire Forest Protection Bureau, in the press release.

The state Forest Protection Bureau declared April 19 through April 25 Wildfire Awareness Week; information on wildlife prevention is available at nhdfldncr.nh.gov/forest-protection/wildfire-prevention, the release said.

"Spring is outdoor clean-up season for lots of us in New Hampshire and doing things like removing leaves and pine needles from roofs and gutters, making sure shrubs, woodpiles and other fuels are kept away from buildings, and — of course — always getting a fire permit before any outdoor burning, all go a long way to making sure wildfires don't start and,

if they do, that they're more easily contained," said N.H. Forest Ranger Katharine Baughman in the statement. According to the release, "[u]nder state law, anyone wishing to have an outdoor fire in New Hampshire, unless there is snow on the ground, must obtain a state fire permit in advance from the local fire department; they may also be obtained online at nhfire-permit.com. Permits are issued only on days when Daily Fire Danger conditions indicate that it is safe to burn." More than 80 percent of the state is forested, the release said.

Air update

Head to lung.org/sota for the American Lung Association in New Hampshire's "State of the Air" report, which was slated to be released just after midnight on Wednesday, April 22 (Earth Day), according to a press release. The report "tracks exposure to unhealthy ozone and particle pollution. The report serves as a 'report card,' ranking air quality in metro areas and grading counties across the state.

CONTINUED ON PG 18 ▶

Concord Kimball Jenkins and Pope Memorial SPCA are holding a "Paint Your Pet" Workshop at Banks Humane Education Center in **Concord** on Monday, May 18, and Tuesday, May 19, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with proceeds to benefit Pope Memorial SPCA, according to a Kimball Jenkins Facebook post. No painting experience needed and all the supplies will be included; see tinyurl.com/kjxpmspca for details and to register in advance.

Auburn Parks and Recreation will hold its town-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to a post on the department's Facebook page. Those wishing to sell stuff can register by April 30 at auburnpark-sandrec.com.

Manchester Central High School's literary and arts magazine The Oracle is hosting a coffeehouse poetry slam together with Tri-M, the school's music honors society, on Thursday, April 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. in CHS's Classical Hall (535 Beech St.), according to a post by Talia Harmon on Manchester InkLink. Tickets are \$5.

The Hollis Arts Society will present the class "Painting on Silk with Anne Wifholm" on Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 100 W. Pearl St. in **Nashua**. The cost for the class is \$60. See hollisartsocietynh.com.

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SCAN ME

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Turtles on the move

In an April 6 press release the Turtle Brigade (nhanimalrights.org/turtle-brigade) reminded the public that with warmer temperatures more turtles will make their way onto area roadways and depend on thoughtful humans to make it to their destinations. "From May 3 through Oct. 3, NH residents are encouraged to stay alert for turtles, especially near roads that intersect wetlands and known nesting areas," the press release read. "In the wild, very few turtles survive to reproductive age. Those that do face significant challenges, especially when crossing roadways during nesting season. While some species can live for over a century in the right conditions, most never reach their maturity due to habitat loss and human-related threats."

QOL score: +1 for nesting turtles

Comment: *The Turtle Brigade's first recommendation to drivers is to "Slow down and stay alert," i.e. don't run them over.*

The ski industry is worried

A new study from the University of New Hampshire has found a "high level of alarm that is greater than the national average" among New Hampshire's ski industry about climate change. In an April 8 press release UNH announced that "that the majority of New Hampshire ski industry professionals are concerned about the effects of global warming on the ski industry, which generates close to \$278.8 million each season in the Granite State, and believe more should be done. The study released by UNH's Carsey School of Public Policy shows that this shared unease suggests a readiness to adopt sustainable practices and advocate for industry-wide adaptations."

QOL score: -1 for the precarious state of skiing in NH

Comment: *For some Granite Staters, the best part of winter is skiing.*

Where did all the eelgrass go?

In an April 15 press release, the Conservation Law Foundation (clf.org) announced that the population of eelgrass in New Hampshire's Great Bay has fallen precipitously. "Eelgrass — underwater seagrasses that are the foundation of the Great Bay estuary's ecosystem — has collapsed," the press release read, "marking the most severe ecological decline seen in Great Bay in decades. According to a new study, eelgrass coverage across the estuary fell by 80 percent in a single year, dropping from more than 1,000 acres in 2024 to just 211 acres last year. Within Great Bay itself, the loss was even more dramatic, reaching 98 percent in that same period."

QOL score: -1

Comment: *The CLF report said, "The stressors on eelgrass — sediment from rain runoff and increasingly intense storms, excess nutrient pollution from wastewater and stormwater, invasive green crabs and warming water temperatures caused by climate change — have all posed challenges to eelgrass health for years." Visit scholars.unh.edu/prep/502.*

A new home for your CDs and movie posters

Red River Theatres in Concord has put out a call for donations for its Annual Movie, Music, and Poster Sale, which will take place during Market Days in June. According to an item in Intown Concord's newsletter, The Intown Insider, "Red River Theatres is now accepting donations.... They accept your gently used: vinyl records, DVDs and Blu-rays, VHS tapes, Cassette tapes, CDs, and Music and movie memorabilia. Drop off your items at Red River Theatres during regular business hours, or email info@redrivertheatres.org to schedule a time."

QOL score: +1

Comment: *You can feel good knowing that your VHS collection of early run The X-Files episodes will find a good home.*

QOL score last week: 44

Net change: 0

QOL this week: 44

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

Let us know at news@hippopress.com.

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SPORTS DAVE LONG'S LONGSHOTS

C's take aim at 19



The Big Story – Celtics Begin Playoffs: The playoffs were not expected to begin with this amount of enthusiasm around here, or hopes for title 19. But with **Jayson Tatum** back and quickly more productive than most thought possible, they're at worst co-favorites to win the East with top seed Detroit. It started swimmingly with a 123-91 thumping of the **Joel Embiid**-less 76ers in Game 1, as Tatum (25-11-7) and **Jaylon Brown** combined for 51 points.

Sports 101: Name the school and the record six players it's had taken first overall in the NFL draft.

News Item – The NFL Draft: Story No. 2 for the week is the draft. It will be the biggest upset since 1980's Miracle on Ice if the QB-needy Raiders don't take Heisman winner **Fernando Mendoza** with the top pick. Meanwhile the Patriots will be looking to fill their three biggest needs — edge rusher, O-line and No. 1 receiver — with picks or picks used in a trade.

News Item – Red Sox Week:

Good – Ranger Suarez allowed no runs in two starts and 14 innings.

Bad – They're collectively hitting .228 as a team and have the fewest homers in baseball with 13.

Ugly – Garrett Crochet had his two worst Red Sox starts when he gave up 15 earned runs and 16 hits in 6.2 innings to raise the ERA from 2.64 to 7.88.

News Item – NBA Playoff Notes: With retirement rumors all around, will this be the last we see of **LeBron James**? Ditto for GS's trio of **Steph Curry**, **Al Horford** and **Steve Kerr**. And speaking of GS, he certainly has been a productive player on a historic team. But given his toxic act on and off the court, getting tossed and taunting the crowd on the way out as Golden State's playoff hopes (and its mini-dynasty) were ended by Phoenix, it seems like a perfect way for the career of the always obnoxious **Draymond Green** to end.

Markelle Fultz, Factoid: The failed 2017 first overall draft pick has an interesting connection to the Boston-Philly series by delivering each team's best player to them. **Danny Ainge** traded that pick to Philly for their third overall slot where he took Tatum. Then after Fultz's disastrous two years in Philly they dumped him to Orlando for the 20th pick in 2019 Round 1, which they used to take **Tyrese Maxey** out of Kentucky.

The Numbers

.542 – best batting average in the entire minor league as the week started, belonging to No. 2 Red Sox prospect **Franklin Arias**. He also has three homers, nine RBI, a .613

OBP and .875 OPS in AA with the Portland Sea Dogs.

11 – losing streak for the NY Mets, which left the team with the second highest payroll in baseball (\$350 million) with its worst record at 7-15.

12 – straight years the Celtics have been in the NBA playoffs.

... **Of the Week Awards**

Thumbs Up – Jaylen Brown: He delivered one of the greatest step up performances to meet the challenge for a team that lost its best player before their year with his best year as a player and a leader.

Stat Day: Must have been something in the water Wednesday for the F-Cats and the SNHU baseball team. The F-Cats scored 30 times in a 20-1 and 10-0 doubleheader sweep of the Chesapeake Baysox, while for the Penmen it was a 24-0 demolition of crosstown rival Saint Anselm.

Sports 101 Answer: USC has had the most first overall picks in the NFL draft starting with tackle **Ron Yary** followed by **O.J. Simpson**, **Ricky Bell**, **Keyshawn Johnson**, **Carson Palmer** and **Caleb Johnson**.

Final Thought – Pats Name Hall Nominees: Even though it made sense to do it at the time, fan voting is what started the descent of baseball's All-Star system into the death spiral it finds itself in today. It gave us simpleton fan-boy homerism ballot stuffing for favorite players over the guys who earned it and it hasn't been the same since. And it's about to happen with the Patriot Hall of Fame after **Rob Gronkowski**, **Logan Mankins** and **Adam Vinatieri** became this year's Hall of Fame nominees, where the wildly popular Gronk will win the vote ahead of a most deserving guy, who, by the way, is already in Football's Hall in Canton.

I know how great Gronk was in arguably being the greatest (and definitely the most fun) tight end ever. But, but, *but* how can Adam V, who *started* the dynasty with three of the greatest clutch plays/kicks in history, not get in ahead of Gronk? Especially after already having been elected to the tougher Pro Football HoF?

That there isn't a sense of order to honor the players who started the Pats' amazing run, like **Julian Edelman** getting in before **Wes Welker**, who is only the most productive receiver in Patriots history, doesn't make sense. There should be an order to it. To be disrupted only by supreme Patriots like **Tom Brady**, **Drew Bledsoe** and **Coach B**.

Email Dave Long at dlong@hippopress.com.

THIS WEEK

BIG EVENTS APRIL 23 AND BEYOND

Thursday, April 23

Catch **Soul Asylum** in an acoustic concert tonight at the Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St. in Derry, with Living Colour's Corey Glover opening. The show starts at 8 p.m. See tupelomusichall.com.



Street near Dunbarton Road by 8:50 a.m. to register and hear instructions, the post said. See manchesternh.gov/Departments/Sewer-and-Stormwater/Pond-Restoration for more on the program and find them on Facebook for future cleanup events.

ner claims the championship belt." — at The Spot, 217 Main St. in Nashua, starting at 3 p.m. today, according to a post on Flow Free or Die's Facebook page. Ten artists will perform for three judges in three rounds, with the final round a head-to-head between the top two, the post said. 18+.

children ages 6 to 12, with a family maximum of \$15, the release said.

Tuesday, April 28

The N.H. Fisher Cats kick off the first of six games against the Binghamton Rumble Ponies this week, running through Sunday, May 3, tonight at 6:03 p.m. See milb.com/new-hampshire for tickets. 🗨️

Thursday, April 23

Catch "A Conversation with Sy Montgomery," author of Concord Reads book *Of Time and Turtles — Mending the World Shell by Shattered Shell*, and wildlife artist and illustrator Matt Patterson at the BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St. in Concord, today at 6:30 p.m. See ccanh.com for links to register. See concordnh.gov/1983/Library for more on Concord Reads.

riverbend-youth-company.com.

Saturday, April 25

The 2026 National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors New England Regional will be held at the Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Road in Concord, with its public day today from 8 a.m. to noon and its members day on Friday, April 24. See newenglandregional.org

Saturday, April 25

The Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St. in Nashua, will host the 4th Annual Sustainability Fair today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the plaza outside the library, according to nashualibrary.org. Described as a family-friendly event, the fair will feature an eco-market with artisan and food items for sale, a box turtle from the Zoo New England Conservation, the Rideable Nashua kickoff, a trash art community project, an electric vehicle showcase and more, according to the library's website.

Sunday, April 26

The Hooksett Lions Club will hold their annual train show today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at David R. Cawley Middle School, 89 Whitehall Road in Hooksett, featuring model train layouts of various scales, train displays, vendors, Legos, kids' activities, a dining car, a white elephant sale and more, according to a club press release. Admission costs \$7 for adults, \$1 for



Save the Date!

Saturday, May 2

Register now for the Woolly Wonder Fest at the Joppa Hill Educational Farm, 174 Joppa Hill Road in Bedford, on Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature hands-on wool skirting, washing, carding and spinning; live fiber demonstrations, an opportunity to meet the sheep, music and more, according to the farm's Facebook page. See jhcf.org/events-at-the-farm.

Thursday, April 23

The curtain rises on *Working, Localized Edition*, from the book by Studs Terkel, at the Amato Center, 56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford, running tonight through Saturday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. plus 2:30 p.m. on April 25. See amatocenter.org/

Saturday, April 25

The Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program will hold a cleanup at Black Brook and Blodget Park today from 9 to 11 a.m., according to a post on the group's Facebook page. Meet in the parking lot on Front

Saturday, April 25

Flow Free or Die will present Flow Sessions Live — a competition to find "The Hottest Emcee in the City. Win-



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Tastiness To Go

A LOOK AT AREA FOOD TRUCKS

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

There have probably been mobile kitchens since before the invention of the wheel. But in recent years there has been a change in the country's and New Hampshire's food scene, led by a new generation of food trucks. Area food truck enthusiasts can choose from everything from hot dogs to a themed coffee experience to fire-grilled steaks or salmon.

Nick Provencher is a career chef who has worked in professional kitchens for decades. Currently he runs the Ash Street Inn's Chef's Table (118 Ash St., Manchester, 668-9908, ashstreetinn.com). He sees the recent proliferation of food trucks as a reaction to the financial realities of opening a new restaurant.

"There's a lower capital startup for talented chefs and cooks who aspire to have their own places," he said. "It's a great starting point where they can showcase their skills. And to me, honestly, after getting an inside view of the restaurant industry for 15 years, sometimes I'm like, that just might be the best bet ever because you're not putting a lot on the line. There are minimal variables. You're not locked into some lease or this and that. You don't have a ton of employees. With the current state of the economy and the way the restaurant business seems

to fluctuate, that kind of seems almost like a pretty good way to be able to sustain yourself for a longer time and a more reliable period. I think it's brilliant."

KS LeBlanc is the chef and owner of The Sleazy Vegan Cafe (205 N. State St., Concord, 877-328-7838, thesleazyvegan.com/concord) and The Sleazy Vegan Food Truck. She started in a food truck, then moved to a shared restaurant space and finally, during the past year, has opened a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

"I think in New England, I think we see, especially in New Hampshire, food truckers make the leap, going from ghost kitchen to food truck and into brick-and-mortar [restaurants] just because this is really a hard place to run a food truck," she said. "New Hampshire's got some really weird rules and policies, so it's a hard place to be a food truck. I think that's why we see it focused here a lot more. Places out west and down south are not quite that way. They do more food truck parks and gastro places where multiple trucks can get together and have like a shared expense of a place really pulling, you know, more people and more crowds together. We don't see that very much here."

At the same time, she said, food trucks allow an extremely focused approach to a particular

type of food that would be hard to pull off in a conventional restaurant. "There's an ability to take something that's really, really special to you or something that you can make really, really special and build a business around that. One tiny slice is where a food truck wins. You can get to business with something small and have that small niche actually be a win and not something that's limiting — get into some Ethiopian food or run a truck that just does empanadas or trucks that just do tacos but they slay at what they do."

Here is a look at just a few of the many area food trucks trying to do just that.

Cali Arepa

(202-5845, caliarepa.com)

Owner: Olga Muriel

What type of food does it serve? Colombian street food, especially arepas

Where can customers find it? "I move around. Usually I post where I'm going to be on my Facebook and Instagram pages. I try to be in most of the big events around New Hampshire,

but sometimes breweries or private events want to have food on site and they contact me. So I really have a schedule, and I post every month where I'm going to be so people can find me."

Where can people find it on social media? Instagram and Facebook

What is the most popular dish with customers? "The Arepa Mixta because it has three different meats and the arepas have all of the homemade sauces that we prepare."

What is Muriel's favorite dish? "I enjoy all of them. Every single item in our menu, I enjoy because it's authentic. All of the arepas have a good amount of flavor — an authentic flavor — for someone to try, like authentic Colombian street food. I am a beef person, so I will always go with the beef one."

"We are from Cali, which is one of the biggest cities in Colombia," Muriel said. "If you travel to South America, especially Colombia, you will see arepas on the street. Everyone will have a little cart, grilling the arepas on site. Most of them are filled with cheese. Some have beef, so we kind of mixed the whole idea and

““ There’s an ability to take something that’s really, really special to you or something that you can make really, really special and build a business around that. ””

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Cali Arepa food truck. Courtesy photo.



Arepa from Cali Arepa. Courtesy photo.



A Cup of Ambition. Courtesy photo.

brought up the whole variety of meat in the arepas, so people like it.”

Muriel said she likes to educate new customers.

“People think that the arepas are kind of like tacos,” she said, “but they’re not, because the arepas are a mixture of mixed up ingredients, bringing the dough in a consistency where it is grilled and crunchy, and it’s tasty. So I want people to understand that the arepa, you can say it is kind of like a sandwich, but it is nothing like a taco!”

Cup of Ambition

(1170 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 843-591-6146)

Owner: Barbara Devay

What is it? A Dolly Parton-themed mobile coffee bar

What does it serve? Coffee drinks and mini-doughnuts fried to order and named after Dolly Parton songs

Where can customers find it? “At my husband’s shop on Hooksett Road. I’m here most of the time, unless I’m booked for an event, and I’m booked for several already!”

Where can people find it on social media? Instagram and Facebook

What is the most popular with customers? “A medium iced coffee butterscotch with a shot of espresso has been the thing that people love.”

What is Devay’s favorite dish? “My favorite donut is the Islands In the Stream, which is a warm breakfast blend with vanilla and cinnamon sugar. That’s probably my favorite thing on the whole truck”

“I have been a fan of Dolly Parton my entire life,” Devay said. “I am a season pass holder to Dollywood. We lived a lot closer when we were in South Carolina, so we would go quite often. We’re a little further now, so instead of driving we’ll have to fly. I brought this whole mini donut/coffee thing up from South Carolina. It was a combination of two things that I really enjoyed doing. My husband bought me

this trailer this past Christmas to kind of make my dream come true. He actually went to South Carolina to pick it up because we were moving our businesses and he made me believe that he was going down there to move some more equipment for his mechanic shop, but then he pulled in the driveway with ‘Santa Claus Is Coming to Town’ on his radio and he had my trailer behind him. It’s red, so it definitely screamed Christmas.”

Teenie Wienies

(403-2336, twprovisions.com)

Owner: Riley O’Loughlin

What type of food does it serve? Sandwiches made from scratch-made sausages

Where can customers find it? Teenie Wienies is at most downtown Concord events, such as First Friday. “We’re based out of Concord although I don’t have a physical location yet. If there’s any event I can do in Concord it’s a priority.”

Where can people find it on social media? Instagram, Facebook, and X

What dish is most popular with customers? “A sandwich we call the Chinese Dumpling. The sausage itself is basically the contents of a dumpling — a pork base with sesame sauce, sesame oil, cabbage, a few Asian spices like ginger, and then we continue to build the sandwich around that with like an Asian-inspired slaw, pickled radishes, red onion, Sriracha aioli, green onion and sesame seeds.”

“We wanted to do hot dogs originally,” O’Loughlin said. “I pivoted to sausages because I make everything from scratch. It’s a lot easier for me to make sausages than a hot dog. With a sausage you have much more texture of the actual meat inside of it. I’m more of a butcher than I am a chef. I don’t feel comfortable calling myself a chef, but I feel much more comfortable calling myself a butcher.”

At any given time, O’Loughlin said, Teenie Wienies offers six to seven house-made sausages and as many sandwiches. “Occasionally, for

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special events like Oktoberfest we'll do more like German sausages served on a plate with spetzle, sauerkraut, handmade pretzels, that sort of stuff. But for the most part our core menu is sausage subs."

The Treat Trolley

(235-9357, treattrolley.com)

Co-owner: Eleni Gagnon

What is it? A classic ice cream truck

What does it serve? "We are an ice cream truck, but ... in addition to the novelties, we serve scoops, which kind of sets us apart."

Where can customers find it? "We focus mainly on events. This year we will be at the Hooksett Farmers Market, which is every second Sunday of the month and it runs May through October. And then people will call us to do company outings, birthday parties. We are doing weddings. So we don't have a set spot, but we are out and about at a lot of different events. We have quite a few weddings actually that have booked us for this coming summer. We're excited for the warm weather."

Where can people find it on social media? Instagram and Facebook

What dish is most popular with customers? "The scoops are definitely more of a seller. We do a lot of the basics — nothing too unusual. I feel like the basics are more popular. We've tried to throw in some different [flavors] but your vanilla/chocolate/cookies and cream are definitely the more popular ones. I think



Teenie Wienies. Courtesy photo.

with something as basic as ice cream, it's very important to people. It's foundational."

What is Gagnon's favorite dish? "The Strawberry Shortcake is probably my favorite novelty ice cream."

"Nobody's ever upset when they're eating ice cream," Gagnon said. "So everybody's always happy to see us, which we love. We did drive some neighborhoods last year, so it was really fun to see grown men chasing the truck because they probably haven't seen an ice cream truck since they were kids."

Smokin' Spanks Barbecue

(smokinspanks.com)



Smokin' Spanks Barbecue. Courtesy photo.

Owner: Kevin Ancil

What type of food does it serve? "I offer a full barbecue menu. Everything I offer is prepared fresh by me from scratch from my own recipes. I use no prepackaged rubs or injections or marinades or sauces. Everything I serve is made by me. My smokers use no propane to smoke my meat. I only use natural hardwood lump charcoal, and wood. I have a battery of six sauces that are always made fresh and they're always served on the side because the meat stands up on its own and doesn't need the sauce. The sauce is just there for extra if you like it."

Where can customers find it? "Right now I'm selling every Sunday in Litchfield at 517 Charles Bancroft Highway — that's [Route] 3A — a couple minutes south of Manchester. And then once we get going this summer and more into mid-season, I'll be adding in Friday nights as well. I found that I draw pretty well just on my own. I've got a couple gigs, but for the most part I'm not going to events and trying to find places that are providing me with customers. I'm pretty much setting up and drawing people to me for myself and trying to operate that way and then supplementing with the catering work and the parties and such. I get a lot of graduations, birthday parties, a lot of family, backyard type stuff like that."

Where can people find it on social media? Facebook

What dish is most popular with customers? "It tends to go week by week. Some things are heavier than others. There doesn't seem to be a lot of rhyme or reason. That just depends on who's coming in that week, what their favorites are. That said, I sell an awful lot of brisket."

While smoked meats are the foundation of Ancil's menu, he said great barbecue requires great side dishes. "I love mac and cheese," he said. "It's nice and creamy and soft and smooth and hot. Baked beans are really good — something sweet like that stands up nice with the spiciness and the richness of the barbecue. I do a loaded baked potato salad that I think pairs very nicely. It's creamy, cold and rich."



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The Treat Trolley. Courtesy photo.



Pours and Petals Mobile Bar and Catering. Courtesy photo.

Wicked Tasty Food Truck

(699-5217, wickedtastytrucks.com)

Owner: Jakob Norris

What type of food does it serve? “Our concept is New England classics with a twist. It’s kind of a cultivation of the food that I grew up with in a very approachable comfort food style. We do things like smash burgers, we do some good hot dogs, we have a really great maple bacon onion jam, chicken sandwich with honey Sriracha, and braised short rib poutine. The whole idea is really just to kind of remind everybody where we’re from and kind of kick it up a notch and everybody in the family can enjoy it.”

Where can customers find it? “We are very event-based and mostly privately booked. But you can find us at some of the same major events every year. We always do Concord Market Days. You’ll find us doing the Concord Winter Festival. We do a couple events in Manchester. We have a full calendar on our website. Every week there’s usually at least two or three

public spots that we’re open for.”

Where can people find it on social media? Instagram and Facebook

What dish is most popular with customers? “We’re definitely known for our smash burger with our maple bacon onion jam. That is our bread and butter. It has our homemade garlic aioli. It has like four different types of garlic — roasted garlic, granulated garlic, fresh garlic and garlic oil. We really focus on a good handful of homemade items, and those are really what we’re known for. So that smash burger is certainly the top one.”

What is Norris’ favorite dish? “My personal favorite would be our grilled cheeses. We actually have two signature grilled cheese [sandwiches] that we do. One of them has our braised short rib and our maple bacon onion jam on it. But one of the interesting things that we do with our grilled cheeses is we cover the outside with a garlic aioli and press it in shredded cheddar. We put that on the grill so it gets a crispy cheese crust on the outside. and then it’s filled with cheddar and American and bacon jam and short rib on the inside.”

Pours and Petals Mobile Bar and Catering

(205 N. State St., Concord, poursandpetal-sevents.com)

Owner: Erin Doonan

What type of food does it serve? “We do primarily drinks. We serve cocktails, but we offer lemonade, iced coffee, hot coffee. And that’s what you’re going to find us selling at public events. We do also offer street tacos as well. However, we only do that for private events.”

Where can customers find it? Mostly at private functions. “We cater a lot of weddings. Honestly, that’s kind of the reason we got into the business is because we wanted to cater wed-

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Motor Pie. Courtesy photo.

dings. And people do have the typical idea of a food truck. But knowing that we wanted to go into weddings, we really want to make [our truck] a bit prettier for pictures — something that people would want to have in the background, people actually get excited about taking photos with it, and going up to the truck. So I think it adds a really nice, unique touch to weddings.”

What is most popular with customers?

“Our lemonade is definitely by far our most popular item. We do a bunch of different flavors like strawberry basil and raspberry lime. Those are our two most popular flavors.”

Where can people find it on social media?

Instagram and Facebook

“One of our goals was to have something that looked nice in photographs,” Doonan said. “We want to keep branding pretty minimal, so that way it didn’t feel like we were advertising to people’s wedding guests. We chose colors that kind of go well with weddings. We have a sage green food truck as well as a light yellow food truck, so that usually goes along with wedding colors. And instead of just going with a typical trailer, we also went with true, authentic, vintage, renovated trailers. We have a 1960 and I think the other one is a 1966. They used to be campers and we converted them. I think a lot of food truck owners also kind of prioritize either doing public events or setting up in one spot, and that’s what we’re doing. our model. Rather than having people come to us, we go to the people.”

Sicilian Street Chef

(sicilianstreetchef.com)

Owner: Sal DiMaggio

What type of food does it serve? “The original intention of the truck was to sell Sicilian food, but we do do a lot of Italian things — chicken pesto, prosciutto and mozzarella and that sort of stuff. You have to sell what the people want, so I make my own smash burgers. I make my own hot honey sauce, pesto sauce, and marinara sauce of course. It’s turning into Main Street fair food than anything else.”

Where can customers find it? “Last sum-



Motor Pie. Courtesy photo.

mer was maybe 50 percent breweries and 50 percent fairs. This year it’s going to be about 90 percent events between town concerts, car shows and private parties.”

Where can people find it on social media?

Instagram and Facebook

What dish is most popular with customers? “They love smash burgers.”

Motor Pie Co.

(644-2467, ext. 210, motorpieco.com)

Owner: The Chopscotch Hospitality Group, parent company of Hanover Street Chophouse, the Crown Tavern, and the Kitchen on River Road.

What type of food does it serve? Wood-fired pizza and upscale wood-fired dishes

Where can customers find it? Available for private functions only.

Mairin MacDonald handles the booking for the Motor Pie Co. She said the truck itself is one of its selling points. “The truck’s name is Riley Grace,” she said. “She’s a new part of the family. She’s a restored 1950s Ford with a wood pizza oven on the back. Anybody who knows the Crown Tavern’s pizza will find that same sort of style and quality that you would find at the Crown. But we’re not necessarily calling ourselves a pizza truck. We’re more of a mobile kitchen that we’ll be doing catering out of. It will be for private events only.”

In addition to pizza, MacDonald said Riley Grace will cook other dishes — “things like oven-roasted salmon,” she said. “We can do tenderloin, and hors d’oeuvres. So really anything that can be cooked in a regular oven can be cooked in that oven.”

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ARTS

Secrets and pies

Sweet, funny *The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today* opens in Nashua

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

One by one, local newspapers are disappearing. Wedding announcements and grainy photos of youth sports once stuffed in envelopes and sent with pride to relatives now live online. Or worse, they're forever gone. The lingua franca of small-town life, dropped on porches by middle schoolers on their bikes, is a fading memory.

That's the world of *The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today*, the latest production from Nashua Theatre Guild, running April 24 through April 26 at the Janice B. Streeter Theater. Set at the company picnic of a 126-year-old paper in the Midwest, it's a heart-warming look at coworkers doing their best to keep a looming demise from spoiling the fun.

Directed by Alex Slocum, the 2022 Don Zolidis play is less a commentary on independent journalism than a celebration of the spirit of one small group of people swimming against the tide to carry it on. In small vignettes, the ensemble cast share their fears and dreams, using the moment to both unburden and connect.

Sports reporter Tony (Mike Amichetti) and Kate (Danielle Chisholm), a human interest story writer, compare jobs and imagine life without them. At first dismissive, Tony praises Kate's work. "Your human interest stories make me really interested," he says. "You take the most boring people this town has ever produced and make them seem fascinating."

Kate is less charitable to Tony's beat, but he defends it with an observation that sums up



The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today. Courtesy photo.

what it means to lose community papers like the Gazette. Readers are "not going to go to Facebook to find out what happened," he says. "Nobody's sending a link to grandma to let them know how their kid did in the meet ... that's the thing that's going to be missed the most."

Linda (Sierra Jones), a farm reporter who bartends and remodels kitchens on the side, counsels Imani (Belle McLeod), a new ad sales rep who's overseen a vanishing client list in her tenure. When she laments her failure to turn things around, Linda reassures her, saying, "I can't even clean my bathroom in two months."

For some, the event is a catalyst to confession. Throwing caution to the wind, feelings long buried surface for both young and old to inspire romantic overtures. One couple tentatively discusses a move from dating to the next level. There's a pie contest with a twist ending — after all, it's the Midwest.

The overall effect is wholesome, heartfelt and timely. For Alyson Galipeau, who plays publisher Gayle, the latter is what attracted her to the play. An at-large member of the Guild's board, Galipeau also helped select *The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today* for production.

"I grew up getting the Nashua Telegraph in

my house," she said in a recent phone interview. "When it went to an online format and ... employees got fired, my mom was really bummed out. I was bummed out, too. The parallels between worlds is what drew me in."

Despite its solemn undertone, the play's humor breaks through.

"Rehearsals have been going great, a lot of fun," Galipeau said. "We crack up nonstop. Some of these characters are ridiculous, and we're also screwing up our lines ... between those two aspects, we laugh nonstop."

Plays like this one and *The Tin Woman*, a tear-jerker done earlier in the season, are a big reason why the interest in Guild productions is growing.

"A lot of people are auditioning, and we are having to turn auditioners away for the first time in many years," Galipeau said. "That tells me that there's increased interest in theater and our plays, which I love."

She believes the current effort, which runs for three performances, has wide appeal. "There is a little subplot for everyone in this play. You'll be able to relate to at least one person; I think that's important. If you can connect with your audience, then you have done your job as a writer and a director." 🗨️

The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today

When: Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 26, at 2 p.m.

Where: Janice B Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua

Tickets: \$18 and up, nashuatheatreguild.org

Art

Opening

• **"Boundless: Expansive Views of Land and Imagination,"** featuring photography by William Balsam, Tom McHugh, Lindsay Holmes and Jay Fitzpatrick, will run May 2-30 at the Two Villages Art Society, 846 Main St. in Contoocook, according to twovillagesart.org.

Events

• **The Craftworkers' Guild Spring Fair Craft Shop** at Oliver Kendall House (3A Meetinghouse Road in Bedford, behind the Bedford Public Library) will open Thursday, April 30, and stay open through Sunday, May 24. See thecraftworkersguild.org.

• **Hollis Art Society Spring Art Show & Sale** will take place Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road in Hollis. See hollisartssocietytnh.com.

Exhibits

• **"Manchester City Employee and School District Employee and Fam-**

ily Art Show," produced by the Manchester Arts Commission in partnership with the Manchester Economic Development Office and the National Arts Program and featuring works by more than 70 artists, is on display at Manchester's City Hall during business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the first floor, according to the MEDO newsletter.

• **"Shifting Light"** is on display at Art 3 Gallery, 44 W. Brook St. in Manchester, art3gallery.com, which is open Monday through Friday, 12:30 to 4 p.m.

• **"Spring Awakening: Flowers on Silk and Clay"** featuring paintings and ceramics by local artist James Cusmano will be on display at the Peterborough Town Library, 2 Concord St., peterboroughtownlibrary.org, through Thursday, April 23.

• **"Mixing It Up,"** featuring mixed media artists Anne Boedecker, Adele Sanborn, Becky Sawyer, Joy Malcolm, and Sandy Steen Bartholomew, will run through Saturday, April 25, at the Two Villages Art Society, 846 Main St. in Contoocook, according to twovillagesart.org.

• **"Chromatic Flow,"** a new exhibition featuring the art of Adam Krauss and Dave Robb, is on display at See Saw Art, a gallery space inside Mosaic Art Collective at 66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester, according to seesaw.gallery. The exhibit is on display through Sunday, April 26, according to the website, where you can find upcoming open hours for the gallery.

• **"Clear To Me,"** a show "focusing on negative space and the balance of light and dark," will run at Mosaic Art Collective, 66 Hanover St., Suite 201, in Manchester through Tuesday, April 28, according to mosaicartcollective.com.

• **"After the Storm: American Winter Landscapes,"** an exhibition of historic and contemporary painting, is on display at New Hampshire Antique Co-op, 323 Elm St. in Milford, through April 30. See nhantiquecoop.com.

• **"Pairings"** The Art Gallery at Rivier University in Nashua is currently presenting "Pairings," a rotating exhibition featuring two artworks of varying media presented side by side with a new pairing each week. The exhibition will run through May 1. The

gallery is open to the public Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall on the Rivier University campus, 435 S. Main St. in Nashua. See rivier.edu/artgallery.

• **"Party Animals,"** an exhibition of linocuts by Bethany Clarke, runs through Saturday, May 2, at McLane Center (84 Silk Farm Road, Concord, 224-9909), which is open Wednes-

days through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to nhaudubon.org.

• **April 9-May 9** show at The Glimpse Gallery, 4 Park St. in Concord. See theglimpsegallery.com.



TOKILLAMOCKINGBIRD

See Atticus Finch, Scout, Jem, Boo Radley and the other residents of Maycomb, Alabama, when *To Kill a Mockingbird*, an adaptation of the Harper Lee novel by Christopher Sergel, is performed by the Community Players of Concord on Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. at Concord City Auditorium, 2 Prince St. in Concord. In a press release from the Players, show Director Elizabeth Lent states, "Though set in 1935, it is not a nostalgic look back, but a hard-hitting look at the costs of the undercurrents of prejudice, class and race, which continue to resonate in our society today. There are many perspectives in the story that need to be considered, perspectives that vary according to each of the characters as the town bears witness to the events as they unfold." Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$20 for 65+ and 17 and under. See communityplayersofconcord.org. *Featured photo by Michael von Redlich*

• **“All Kinds of Everything,”** featuring the works of Lucy Mink and Keiko Narahashi, is on display at Outer Space Gallery, 35 Pleasant St. in Concord, through Saturday, May 23. The gallery is open Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m. See outerspacearts.xyz.

• **“Hope Is,”** an exhibition featuring art inspired by the Emily Dickinson poem “Hope Is The Thing With Feathers” and featuring works by contemporary artists Cynthia Arieta, Samantha Brown, Faith Castillo, Vanessa Falgoust, Abby Fargo, Marti Fuerst, Cristina Henley and Kathryn Winograd, will be on display at Aplomb Gallery, 262 Central Ave. in Dover, theaplombproject.org, through early May.

• **“Of All the Worlds We Could Have Dreamed,”** an immersive spring exhibition featuring works by artist Sam Modder, will be on display at 3SArtspace in Portsmouth through May 31. See 3sarts.org.

• **“Frank Lloyd Wright in Manchester: The Histories of the Zimmermans and Kailis”** is on display at the Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St. in Manchester, currier.org, through June. The Currier is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See the website for information on visiting the two houses the exhibit discusses.

• **“Strangely Fantastic,”** an exhibition featuring the art of Molly C. Meng, is on display in the lobby of the Players’ Ring Theatre, 105 Marcy St. in Portsmouth, playersring.org, until the end of the Mainstage season in June. See mollycmeng.com for more on the artist.

• **“Emergence,”** a spring juried members’ exhibition, will run through Saturday, June 27, at the Center for the Arts Members Gallery, 428 Main St. in New London. The gallery is open Thursday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m. See cfanh.org.

• **“Spray: Jules Olitski in the 1960s”** will run through Aug. 9 at the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester. The exhibit “invites you to rediscover a modern master who explored the possibilities of color with gumption, vision, and a passion for experimentation,” according to currier.org.

• **“An Ocean of Quilts”** featuring art by members of the Cocheco Quilters Guild is on display through Aug. 31

at Gallery 6 at the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire, 6 Washington St. in Dover, childrens-museum.org. The gallery is open during regular museum hours.

• **“A Symphony of Light and Shadow: The Landscape Photography of Jeff Dachowski”** has returned to LaBelle Winery in Derry, 14 Route 111, and will be a long-term installation, according to a LaBelle press release. See DachowskiPhotography.com for more about Jeff Dachowski and his work. The gallery is open Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; see labellewinery.com.

Museums Exhibits

• **“If You Had to Choose: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New Hampshire,”** which “presents the stories of New Hampshire colonists in 1775 and 1776,” is on display through May 30 at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St. in Concord, according to nhhistory.org. The Society is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **“Lafayette’s Visit to New Hampshire,”** about the Marquis de Lafayette’s 1825 visit to the state, is on display through May 30 at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park St. in Concord, according to nhhistory.org. The Society is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **“Reflections of the Revolution: The Derryfield Perspective”** is the new exhibit at the Millyard Museum, 200 Bedford St. in Manchester, according to an email from the museum. See manchesterhistoric.org.

Theater Shows

• **“Eureka Day”** by Jonathan Spector will be presented by the New Hampshire Theatre Project and Threshold Stage Company through May 3 at the New Hampshire Theatre Project, 959 Islington St. #9 in Portsmouth with shows Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. See nhtheatreproject.org/onstagenow.

• **“Footloose”** will run at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St. in Manchester,

through Sunday, May 10, with shows on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and on Thursday, May 7, at 7:30 p.m. See palacetheatre.org for tickets.

• **“Working, Localized Edition,”** from the book by Studs Terkel, will be presented at the Amato Center, 56 Mont Vernon St. in Milford, on Thursday, April 23, through Saturday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. plus 2:30 p.m. on April 25. See amatocenter.org/riverbend-youth-company.

• **“The Littlefield Gazette Does Not End Today”** by Don Zolidis, directed by Alexander Slocum, will be presented by the Nashua Theatre Guild on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 26, at 2 p.m. at Janice B. Street Theatre, 14 Court St. in Nashua. See nashuatheatreguild.org.

• **“The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time”** will be presented by the Winnepesaukee Playhouse’s Education Department and performed by students ages 13-18 at the Playhouse in Meredith with shows Thursday, April 23, through Sunday, April 26. See winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org for tickets.

Classical

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

Events

• **Guitar Night with Hiroya Tsukamoto** on Friday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dana Center at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, according to tickets.anselm.edu, where you can purchase tickets.

• **NE Roots and Branches – “Music From North & South: Canadian & Appalachian Folk Tunes”** will be presented Saturday, April 25, at 6 p.m. featuring Concord Community Music School Faculty, 23 Wall St. in Concord, featuring a slow jam at 6 p.m., a concert at 7 p.m. and a fast jam at 8 p.m., according to a school newsletter. See ccmusicschool.org.

• **Brahms’ Requiem** The Concord Chorale will perform Brahms’ Requiem on Saturday, May 2, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. at St. Paul’s Church in Concord, according to concordchorale.org, where you can check back for updates.



GOODOLCHARLIEBROWN

You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown will be presented by the Manchester Community Theatre Players on Fridays and Saturdays, May 1-2 and May 8-9, at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays, May 3 and May 10, at 2 p.m. at the MCTP Theatre, the North End Montessori School, 698 Beech St. in Manchester. Described as an all-ages-friendly show, the play “explores life through the eyes of Charlie Brown and his friends in the Peanuts gang. This revue of songs and vignettes, based on the beloved Charles Schulz comic strip, is the ideal first show for those who would like to do a musical. Musical numbers include ‘My Blanket and Me,’ ‘The Kite,’ ‘The Baseball Game,’ ‘Little Known Facts,’ ‘Suppertime’ and ‘Happiness,’” according to a press release. See manchestercommunitytheatre.com for tickets.

See manchestercommunitytheatre.com for tickets.

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INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Don't get bent out of shape



By Ray Magliozzi

*Dear Car Talk:
When going straight, the steering wheel of my 2014 Acura RDX is turned about 15 degrees to the right.*

Is this within tolerance, or is there something that needs fixing, like an alignment? — Dave

Yeah, it's within tolerance if you're driving a demolition derby car, Dave. Or you have a teenage son who recently got his license. But whatever the reason, something needs fixing. And no, that is not within tolerance. Certainly not my tolerance.

It sounds like one of your front wheels had a violent interaction with something immovable. It could have been a curbstone, a nasty pothole, or a linebacker for the Green Bay Packers. But when it hit that object, something connected to the front wheels got bent.

You'll want to go to a shop that does front-

end work. They'll start by having a look. And the damage may be immediately obvious to them.

I'd put my money on a tie rod. A bent tie rod will cause the wheels — and the steering wheel — to point off-center. And then, in order to go straight, you have to turn the wheel — in your case — to the right.

If they find a bent tie rod and replace it, they can then try to align the car. That's why it's good to have this work done at a shop that has an alignment machine.

If they can't get it into alignment, that means you bent more than one thing. And the shop will then have to figure out what else is keeping the car from being correctly aligned.

But the most likely thing you bent is a single, inner tie rod. And that's probably in the range of \$300-\$500. Add another \$150 or

so for the alignment, and your days of driving askew will be over. *Visit Cartalk.com.*

A bent tie rod will cause the wheels — and the steering wheel — to point off-center.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE TREASURE HUNT

Hello, Donna.

I read your column each week in the Hippo, and I wonder if you could help with a table. I've attached some pictures.

My parents got this from a cousin about 15 years ago. Someone was moving and my folks just took the table. It's very heavy, has Italian marble in it and the dimensions are 102 x 40 x 29.

All of the original chairs are gone and years ago someone told me that it was an expensive table due to the marble. Is that true?

Any information would be appreciated.

Thank you.

John

Dear John,

Your table looks substantial and nice but doesn't fall into my area for being antique. It does bring up a good point, though.

Even though a piece might not be considered to have an antique value, quality and some age



would still give it a value. Better if you had a maker that was well-known in furniture. Then it would be quality, design and as always condition. Last would be finding it a new home.

John, not having the complete set can definitely matter in pricing it as well. My suggestion would be to go out to a few furniture consignment stores to see if you can get an idea of what pricing is for similar size and quality tables. Then you decide how to market it.

I apologize for not having more information for you. Good luck, John, and I hope your table finds a new home.

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

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KIDDIE — POOL —

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Signs of spring

• The Goffstown Citizens Committee will hold its annual **SpringFest** on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Sullivan Arena at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, according to a press release. The day will feature a kids' zone with bounce houses, slides, table games, glitter tattoos, face painting and more, the release said. There will be two food concessions areas with snacks and lunch and more than 100 booths from businesses and vendors offering product demonstrations, free samples and more, the release said. Admission costs \$5 for adults and is free for children 12 and younger, the release said. See goftstowncitizens.org.

• Charmingfare Farm, 774 High St. in Candia, is celebrating **Barnyard Babies & Beyond** on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, with admission times starting at 10:30 a.m., according to its Facebook page, where you can find a link to tickets. Meet and pet baby farm animals, see a cow milking demonstration, check out the tractor "touch a truck" and more, according to the post. See visitthefarm.com.

Music!

• **Mr. Aaron** celebrates 10 years of making music for kids with a Double Digits Celebration on Saturday, April 25, at 4 p.m. at Rollins Park in Concord, according to facebook.com/mraaronmusic, where you can check back for weather-related updates. See mraaronmusic.com for more about Mr. Aaron and his music.

• Introduce the kids to the songs of Dave Matthews at **The Rock and Roll Playhouse featuring the music of the Dave Matthews Band & More** played by local musician Kevin Horan & Friends on Sunday, April 26, at 11 a.m. (doors open at 10:30 a.m.) at the BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St. in Concord. See ccanh.com for tickets; kids under 1 get in free, according to the website.

• Catch the music of *Frozen*, *Wicked*, *K-Pop Demon Hunters*, *Moana*, Taylor Swift and more at **The Princess Concert** on Monday, April 27, at 3:30 p.m. at the Capitol Center for the Arts' Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St. in Concord. See ccanh.com for tickets.

On stage

• **The Magic School Bus**, presented by TheaterWorks USA, will be at the Capitol Center for the Art's Chubb Theatre, 44 S. Main St. in Concord, on Friday, April 24, at 4 p.m. See ccanh.com for tickets.

• **Comedy illusionist Ben Pratt** will present a family-friendly show at Chunky's, 707 Huse Road in Manchester, on Sunday, April 26, at 6:15 p.m. See chunkys.com, which describes the

show as "loaded with audience participation and exciting fun for the entire family," for tickets.

Fun and games

• Chunky's in Manchester also has a few **theater candy bingo** events on the schedule. Catch bingo Tuesday, April 28, and Friday, May 1, at 6:45 p.m. See chunkys.com to purchase tickets.

• Remix Roller Skating & Event Center, 725 Huse Road in Manchester, will offer a **Vacation Skate Party** on Monday, April 27, with two-hour skate blocks and a free 20-minute roller skate lesson for the 10 a.m. block, according to skateremix.com, where you can purchase tickets for time blocks and find more upcoming all ages skate events.

• To Share Brewing Co., 720 Union St. in Manchester, is offering "an easy, family-friendly hang all week long," according to its Facebook page. The brewery has activities planned throughout the week, such as a scavenger hunt on Tuesday and "Crafternoon" on Wednesday, and will have "Kid Snack Packs" available for purchase, the post said.

• Honey Cup Cafe & Tea Room, 150 Bridge St. in Manchester, has a **Kids Tea Time** available at 10 a.m. April 28 through May 1, by reservation only, according to a post on its Facebook page where you can find details on pricing and available tea time treats.

Vacation at the museum

Looking for something to do during spring vacation (the week of April 27 for many New Hampshire schools)? Some area museums offer extra hours or programming.

• **The Aviation Museum of N.H.** 27 Navigator Road in Londonderry, will be open additional hours during Spring Break — Monday, April 27, and Tuesday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to a press release. The museum is also open its regular hours Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. The museum also will operate its Elite Flight Simulator on Monday, April 27; Wednesday, April 29, and Friday, May 1, from 1 to 4 p.m. in addition to its usual hours of Saturday 1 to 4 p.m., the release said. The simulator, open to ages 13 and up, offers the experience of flying a single-engine plane, the release said. Families with kids ages 12 and younger can attend "Story Time, which will take place on Tuesday, April 28, and Thursday, April 30, with programs at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Participants will enjoy reading several aviation-themed stories as well as additional activities. Admission to Story Time is free and is first-come, first-served. Afterward, families may explore the Aviation Museum at no charge," the release said. See aviationmuseumofnh.org for regular admission prices and for details.

• **The Children's Museum of New Hampshire**, 6 Washington St. in Dover, will be open Tuesday, April 28, for an afternoon play session from 1 to 4 p.m. as well as its usual hours of morning play sessions (9 a.m. to noon) Tuesdays and Sundays and morning and afternoon

CONTINUED ON PG 18 ►



Join us on Saturday, April 25 for
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day including storytimes at 10:30AM
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nashuachoralsociety.org

147857

Books, prizes, golden tickets

Local shops celebrate indie bookstore day

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

According to Michael Joachim, the general manager of Balin Books in Nashua, what sets independent bookstores apart from corporate chain bookstores is the personal relationships they build with their customers.

“The bookstores I’ve worked at and run are very much connected to the community,” he said. We do a great deal of business with almost all the local school systems. There are dedicated people here who work with specific teachers and librarians to make sure they get the books they need at the best price we can get them. And we handle all the work of getting the books sorted, packed up, and delivered to the schools. Individuals will just call us personally and say, hey, here’s a list. Can you help me with this? Can you find out some information on these books that we need? And we take care of that for them.”

Joachim and his staff are ramping up for this Saturday, April 25, Independent Bookstore Day, which the American Booksellers Association (bookweb.org/independent-bookstore-day) describes on their website as a “national one-day party held the last Saturday in April to celebrate independent bookstores across the country, online, and in-store, through exclusive books and literary items, contests, cupcakes, and everything in between.”

Joachim said the day is a good chance to show customers some of the things independent bookstores like Balin Books can do for them.

“Having knowledgeable people in the store,” is important, he said, noting, “People



A limited-edition tote designed by Tom Gauld, author of *Physics for Cats*, will be available at participating indie bookstores.

who have their whole lives in book selling usually wind up in an independent store ... and that goes an enormous amount of miles in results, in speaking to someone intelligently about finding a book you’re looking for, recommendations, or just how the store inventory is shaped to be responsive to the local commu-

nity. All that comes out of experience.”

Erin Magoon, one of the lead booksellers at Gibson’s Bookstore in Concord, said Independent Bookstore Day is one of the most fun days of the year for book fans.

“There’s an Indie Bookstore Ambassador every year,” Magoon said. “This year it’s LeVar Burton of Reading Rainbow, so we’re doing kind of like rainbow-themed decorations, some rainbow-themed search and find activities for kids over on the kids’ side of the store. We’ll have a golden ticket hidden somewhere in the store, and that’s redeemable for 12 free audiobook credits available for someone to find in the store. One of our booksellers, Kate, did a booth last year called Book Zoltar [named for the fortune-telling machine in the 1988 Tom Hanks movie *Big*]. She gives fortunes to adults and kids about what books they should read. And then, of course, we’ll have some local authors here to meet our customers and sign books.”

Manchester’s Bookery is also hiding prizes and a Golden Ticket audiobook voucher, said event coordinator Alex Pellerin. “This is a special ticket that’s going to be hidden around the Bookery,” she said, “and we’re going to be giving clues throughout the day as to where that ticket is. And whoever finds that ticket gets 12 free audiobooks for the year from Libro.fm, which is really fun.” There will also be visiting authors throughout the day, she said, and live music.

According to Pellerin, independent bookstores like Bookery are able to provide their customers with “curated” experiences. “[Independent bookstores] are all unique,” she said, “and a lot of our books reflect our communities. We take a lot of recommendations from our customers for books and we really personalize which books we carry. Our staff is able to work with everybody and offer personalized recommendations, rather than a list of what a corporation says to.”

Indie Bookstore Day

Independent Bookstore Day is Saturday, April 25. Here are the plans at some local participating book stores. For a map of bookstores participating in Independent Bookstore Day activities, visit indiebound.org/independent-bookstore-day/map.

- At **Balin Books in Nashua** (Somerset Plaza, 375 Amherst St.), get exclusive Independent Bookstore Day tote bags and collectible pencils while supplies last, plus mystery grab bags of five books for a \$5 donation to the Nashua Soup Kitchen. (A portion of the day’s sales will be donated to NSK.) Author Laura Knoy will be at the store at 11 a.m. for an event featuring her new book, *The Shopkeeper of Alsace*. p.s. There will be cake, according to the website. See balinbooks.com.

- **Gibson’s Bookstore in Concord** (45 S. Main St.) promises exclusive merch, balloon animals and a “Golden Ticket” for Libro.fm, source of indie audiobooks, as well as visits from authors Kari Allen, Patricia Zube, Jeff Lang and Sam Kelley Theodosopoulos; see gibsonsbookstore.com for details on their books.

- **Manchester’s Bookery** (844 Elm St.) is planning “prizes, discounts, live music, authors, and so much more!” according to their website, bookery-mht.com.

- **Wonderland Books and Toys** (245 Maple St., No. 12, Manchester) will celebrate its second anniversary in conjunction with Independent Bookstore Day with a week of promotions, give-

aways and family-friendly events. On Saturday, April 25, the store will have extended hours from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., featuring exclusive deals and interactive activities, according to a press release.

- At **Water Street Bookstore in Exeter** (125 Water St.), go on a blind date with a book, search for the Libro.fm Golden Ticket (worth 12 audiobook credits) and hidden gift cards, enter a literary trivia quiz (win a \$50 bookstore gift card) and join other fun activities. See waterstreetbooks.com.

- In **Portsmouth, the Book Nook** is hosting an audio book walk to celebrate the day, starting with a free mini Loon chocolate bar in the store at 10 a.m.; see portsmouthbooknook.com for details.

NEWS FROM PG 4

Additionally, the report ranks the most polluted and cleanest cities across the country,” the press release said. This year’s report will also include a special focus on children and the risks they face from air pollution, the release said.

State guide

Queerlective, a group that describes itself as working to “bolster diversity in the cre-

ative community of New Hampshire,” will release its *State of Queer NH Resource Book* at a release party on Saturday, May 9, at 1 p.m., according to a post on the group’s Facebook page. The book is “a community-built guide highlighting queer- and BIPOC-affirming resources, artists, stories, and organizations from across New Hampshire. This release party is a chance to celebrate the work, the people behind it, and the communities that made this project possible,” the post said. See the Facebook page

for the link to RSVP. The release will take place during the “Reduce, Reuse, Upcycle” spring market, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., also at the YWCA, 72 Concord St. in Manchester. See queerlective.com.

More eggs

Two new eggs have joined the peregrine falcon nest at Brady Sullivan Tower in Manchester for a total of five eggs this year, according to the

cams and daily log viewable via nhaudubon.org/education/birds-and-birding/peregrine-cam. According to the daily log on the YouTube page for Feed 1 (there are three feeds, each offering a different angle on the nest), the fourth egg arrived on April 14 and the fifth was laid on April 16. The cam offers livestreaming video of the nest via NH Audubon and the support of Peregrine Networks and Brady Sullivan Properties, according to the website. Last year the nest produced five eggs, of which three hatched.

KIDDIE POOL FROM PG 17

sessions Wednesdays through Saturdays. See childrens-museum.org.

And save the date for Farm Day with Sturgeon Creek Farm on Sunday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, when visitors will get to meet some of the animals from Sturgeon Creek Farm in Eliot, Maine, on the museum’s Play Patio, according to a museum newsletter. Reserve admission online.

- **Currier Museum of Art**, 150 Ash St. in

Manchester, is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to currier.org. Additionally, the museum has workshops April 29 through May 1, for ages 6 to 15 (grouped by age) called “Spray: Big Colors, Bold Moves” and themed around the current “SPRAY: Jules Olitski in the 1960s” exhibition, according to the website, where you can find pricing.

- **The Millyard Museum**, run by the Man-

chester Historic Association, is in the same building at the SEE Science Center — 200 Bedford St. in Manchester. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., according to manchesterhistoric.org, where you can find downloadable Gallery Games to help kids engage with the museum.

- **New Hampshire Historical Society**, 30 Park St. in Concord, offers historical exhibits and

is open its regular hours Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to nhhistory.org, where you can find admission information.

- **SEE Science Center**, 200 Bedford St. in Manchester, will be open Monday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in addition to its regular hours of Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See see-sciencecenter.org.



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147949

27 Navigator Road, Londonderry, N.H. www.aviationmuseumofnh.org



News from the local food scene

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

• **Make Dubai chocolate bars:** Van Otis Chocolates (341 Elm St., Manchester, 627-1611, vanotis.com) will hold a Dubai Bar Making workshop Thursday, April 23, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. During this hour-long class guests will enjoy a tour of Van Otis' Chocolate Factory, make their very own Dubai bar (customized with favorite flavors and mix-ins), and indulge in handmade chocolates. Guests 21+ are welcome to bring their favorite bottle of wine. Participants will also take home the chocolate bar mold to make more bars on their own. The cost is \$65.87 per person through eventbrite.com.

• **Make espresso martinis:** Local Street Eats (112 W. Pearl St., Nashua, 402-4435, local-street-eats.com) will host Espresso Yourself - The Ultimate Espresso Martini Showdown Thursday, April 23, from 4 to 8 p.m. This will be a night filled with caffeine and cocktails. Local bartenders will battle it out to see who creates the best espresso martini. Espresso martinis are \$15. There will be one grand prize winner, and voting will be people's choice.

• **Watch a cooking demo:** Harper's Eden Catering (35 Manchester Road, Derry, 416-0509, harperseden.com) will host the first dinner in a cooking demo series on Friday, April 24, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at The Gathering Grounds (104 Route 13, Brookline, 978-225-0066, thegatheringgroundsnh.com). Follow along while Chef Amanda from Harper's Eden Catering does a live cooking demo. Tickets are \$81.88. RSVP at harperseden.com/event-calendar.

• **Cook as a couple:** It is Spring Break Date Nite at The Culinary Playground (16 Manning St., Derry, 339-1664, culinary-playground.com) Friday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m. as well as Sunday, April 26. As a couple, learn to make fun spring-break-inspired dishes. Tickets are \$165 per couple through the Culinary Playground 22 ▶

FOOD

What does a chef want to cook for you?

The Ash Street Inn's Chef's Table

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

Nick Provencher has been a professional chef for more than 15 years. That sounds very impressive, he said, but in fact the job can be very frustrating.

"Most of the time, it's kind of a burnout job after a while," he said. "It's the hours and the people and the this and that, like you just get discouraged."

His new position as the chef at the Ash Street Inn in Manchester has restored his sense of joy in the kitchen, he said.

"It's essentially like a chef's table that we're doing inside the Ash Street Inn B&B," he said. "They don't normally serve dinner except when you're doing a chef's table." On Chef's Table nights, 12 guests sign up to have a multi-course meal prepared for them by Provencher.

"It's a five-course dinner that we're doing," he said. "The menu changes every single week, depending on regional themes or just locally inspired menus. It's super food-oriented, which is something that gets lost sometimes in a restaurant setting. There are none of those outside distractions. There's no employees. There's no one running operations or a general manager or a front-of-the-house staff. It's just me cooking and interacting with the people who are there and just trying to create a really special night for everyone."

For instance, Provencher said, "This week's menu is a French-Indian fusion. It's centered around some Indian flavors and Indian concepts done through the lens of a French chef and French technique. One of the dishes is going to be a slow-roasted and braised cabbage vindaloo. So there's kind of a mix between two techniques. It has the sauce-building of Indian cuisine. and then the high regard and respect of fresh ingredients. The cabbage gets treated like meat, and cooking it is a three- or four-hour process. The finished dish is essentially like butter chicken, except it's going to be with



Photo courtesy of Ash Street Inn.

French-style Parisian gnocchi. There are going to be things at every meal that people haven't tried before, or combinations they haven't tried, or cuisine they haven't tried."

Cooking for 12 people at a time has opened up opportunities to follow his creativity, Provencher said.

"It's 12 people. It's so small that I can realistically accomplish whatever I have in my mind. There's no, 'Oh, we need to make sure it scales to 30 seats. We need to do this. We need to make sure that the line cooks are competent enough to cook it properly....' There are really no holds barred on whatever we can do." As the chef, he doesn't have to design menu items that would be viable to make at volume, in and out of season, he said. "It only needs to be viable for three days, so you can bring in really cool ingredients, really fresh ingredients."

Because liquor laws don't allow the Ash Street Inn to sell wine, Provencher encourages diners to bring their own.

"It's B. Y. O. B.," he said. "We send out wine recommendations with the menu for the people who make the reservations, but it's hyper-

cused on what will pair with really, really high-quality food."

That freedom and relaxed atmosphere allows Provencher to interact directly with the people eating his food, something that isn't usually possible in a traditional restaurant experience, he said. He can explain the choices he made in preparing their dinner, and point out how ingredients enhance or complement each other.

"There are no distractions," he said, "no conflict of interest, no arguments. It's just a calm, enjoyable dinner in a common enjoyable space where the focus is just around creating amazing food and interacting with people."

"The hope of that is what has kept me in the game so long," he said. 🍷

Chef's Table

There are three seatings per week of the Chef's Table at the Ash Street Inn (118 Ash St, Manchester, 668-9908, ashstreetinn.com), on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Seating is by reservation only. Visit ashstreetinn.com/ash-restaurant.

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FOOD

Big hair meets tiny doughnuts

Cup of Ambition serves coffee too

By John Fladd
jfladd@hippopress.com

The Cup of Ambition Mobile Coffee Bar (1170 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 843-591-6146) is named after a line in Dolly Parton's 1980 song "9 to 5," because owner Barbara Davey is a big fan of the singer. The truck focuses on coffee and doughnuts, Davey said.

"I offer made-to-order hot mini doughnuts. I've got many flavors to pick from. I've got some all put together that are named, but you can make your own. And I do all specialty coffees, iced coffees, frozen coffees, lattes, that sort of thing. I have a doughnut machine. I come in at about three in the morning and I start my batter. And I cook small-batch batter all day; it's all homemade. My glazes are homemade. And I make doughnuts as they're ordered, so they come right off the fryer, and they're decorated the way that the customer wants them, and they're served hot."

These are not full-sized doughnuts, Davey said. "They're probably 2 inches — maybe an inch and five eighths — in diameter." And each variety is named after something Dolly Partonish.

"I'm all Dolly Parton-themed," Davey said, "so I've got a lot of Dolly Parton doughnuts. I've got 'Smoky Mountain Home,' which is kind of like a cookies-and-cream [doughnut]. I've got a 'Dolly Dipper,' which is doughnut glazed with sparkles. I've got a 'Jolene,' which has cinnamon sugar and glitter dust. I do an 'Islands in the Stream,' which is a warm breakfast blend, vanilla with cinnamon sugar. I have another one, 'Coat of Many Colors,' which is vanilla and chocolate glazed with rainbow sprinkles. I've got a 'Gatlinburg Maple Magic,' which is maple and brown sugar cinnamon. So I do a lot of different things."

Like many food truck operators, Davey keeps her customers updated on social media.

"I'm on Facebook, I'm on TikTok, and I'm on Instagram," she said. "I really keep up on my social media to let them know if I'm open 6 to 2



Mini doughnuts at A Cup of Ambition. Courtesy

that day or if I'm open 7 to 2. I try to really nail down a time. Just because if people are going to work I want them to be able to plan, and I've got it set up where some of my regular customers have my cell phone number so they can just text me their order so when they get here it's done. And I bring it right out to their car."

At this point Cup of Ambition has been open about a month, so it's still early days, but Davey said business has been good from the start.

"We're actually doing great," she said. "This past Saturday I had lines of customers waiting to order, so it was phenomenal. It was great. People have been talking about me on social media. They're referring people over. They're having great experiences, and that's kind of what I wanted to bring. I didn't want to just bring good heartwarming food. I wanted to bring a good vibe and just a happy, you know, a happy time when you're there."

"And everybody's happy when they get coffee for sure." ☺

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 20

website.

• **Last winter market:** Saturday, April 25, will be the final Concord Winter Farmers Market (7 Eagle Square, Concord, downtownconcordwinterfarmersmarket.com) of the season, from 9 a.m. to noon. Beginning in May the Farmers Market will return outside on Capitol Street.

• **Grow your own:** Learn to grow your own oyster mushrooms at the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) Saturday, April 25, from 11 a.m. to noon or at a second session beginning at 1 p.m. Join farmer Elizabeth Almeida of Fat Moon Mushrooms to learn how to make your own oyster mushroom

grow kit using recycled food containers and cardboard. Take your kit home and watch your mushrooms grow. Supplies are limited to one kit per household.

• **Make risotto:** Tuscan Market (Tuscan Village, 9 Via Toscana, Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) will host an asparagus risotto cooking class on Sunday, April 26, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn how to make creamy asparagus risotto in this hands-on class. The Tuscan Market's instructor will guide you through the techniques for building rich flavor and perfect texture. The cost is \$59.60 through the Tuscan Market website.



COOKING WITH JOHN FLADD

Jam Bars

These bars involve no fancy ingredients. You don't have to know how to temper eggs or anything. They are straightforward and will not add to your stress level.

2 2/3 cups (320 g) all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon fresh-grated nutmeg – OK, yes. Trust me; grating it yourself is very much better than the powdered stuff you've had since the Obama administration.

1 cup (two sticks) butter

1/2 cup (106 g) brown sugar

1/4 cup (50 g) white sugar, or as you might know it, "sugar"

2 teaspoons vanilla

12 ounces (340 g) jam. It can be any jam. Whatever kind you like. If you feel like playing around, grab a small jar of something cool when you're picking up peanut butter at the store. Check the net weight at the bottom of the label. Most small jars of jam are very close to 340 grams. "Apricot jam?" you might ask yourself. Sure, why not? "Raspberry?" That sounds delicious, but maybe get the seedless stuff. "Grapefruit marmalade?" You do you.

(For this batch, I used a small jar of 'Orange Jam' that had chunks of orange peel in it, which I picked up at a Middle Eastern market. I suspect it is pretty much orange marmalade with a Lebanese accent.)

Preheat your oven to 325°F.

Crumple up a sheet of parchment paper — really wad it up like it owes you money or something. Then open it up and smooth it out. Use it to line an 8x8" baking pan. It's easy to overthink how to line a pan neatly. With what I call the "Crump-It-and-Dump-It" method, you can check that tiny bit of anxiety off your list.



Jam Bars. Photo by John Fladd.

In a mixing bowl, whisk the flour, salt and nutmeg together and set it aside.

Let's face it: You probably decided to make Jam Bars on the spur of the moment and didn't think to leave a couple sticks of butter out to soften up, did you? This is another baking anxiety you can let go of. You're going to cream the butter and sugar together anyway, so just beat the butter with your mixer for a couple of minutes to soften it up, then add the sugars and beat it until the mixture is light and fluffy, then beat in the vanilla.

Turn the mixer down to its lowest setting, and spoon the flour mixture into the butter mixture, and mix everything until it forms a dough. Leave a quarter of the dough in the mixing bowl, then drop the other three quarters into your parchment paper-lined baking pan. (The "Dump" stage of "Crump and Dump"* system), and smooch it to cover the bottom of the pan. Make sure you get it in the corners.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, until it puffs up a bit, then remove it from the oven.

Scoop your jam (what kind did you end up going with?) on top of the half-baked dough, and spread it around with the back of a spoon or an offset spatula. Break the remaining dough blob into tiny, fingertip-sized bits, and cover the jam with them.

Return the pan to the oven, and bake for 45 to 60 minutes, until the jam bubbles and the dough has turned golden brown.

Cool in the pan, then cut into nine pieces, tic-tac-toe style. Eat warm or cold, topped with ice cream, or buck naked. Err, the jam bar, I mean. But again, whatever reduces your stress is good for all of us.

* I should trademark that. 🍷


Weekly Dish

Continued from page 22


• **New NH foods:** In an April 14 press release, Nashua-based coffee company Rare Breed Coffee (2 Pittsburgh Ave, Nashua, 578-3338, rarebreedcoffee.com) announced the release of a new product, Brain Waves, which it described as "a new functional coffee engineered to deliver 'locked-in energy'— sustained cognitive focus and mental clarity without the typical caffeine jitters."

In an April 15 press release, Gate Drop (getgatedrop.com), "a new energy gummy


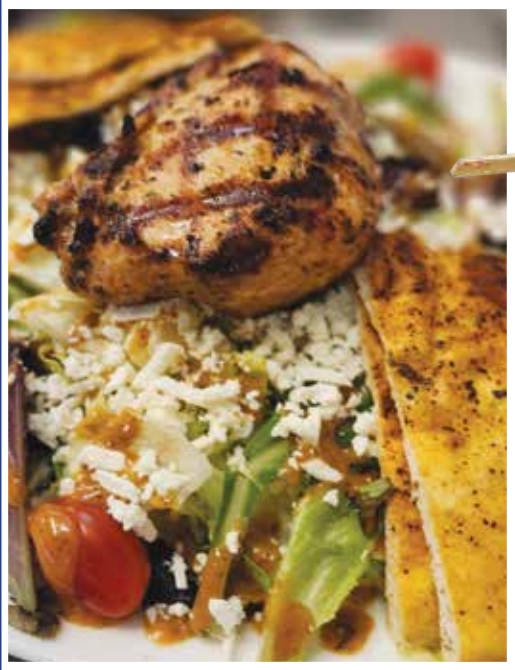
company built by two childhood friends from NH" announced a new energy gummy, also called GateDrop. "GateDrop is an energy gummy brand inspired by motorsports and built for motion," the press release read. "The brand was built to challenge traditional energy drinks. By delivering clean, precisely dosed caffeine in a convenient, portable gummy, GateDrop is positioning itself as a true challenger in one of the fastest-growing categories in consumer products." 🍷



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POP CULTURE

MUSIC, BOOKS, MOVIES AND MORE

Hollan Holmes, *Inside the Sound of Decay* (self-released)



Nice surprise here. Usually when an album waddles in here claiming to be “ambient,” I expect to hear something chintzy and low-rent like Daedalus or whatnot (if you don’t know who Daedalus is, count your blessings), but wow, this Texas-based producer is doing a lot here, so much so that such zines as Sonic Immersion and Ambient Visions have sat up and taken notice. Yes, there’s a lot of barely filled space in the tuneage, but this is no *Tales From Topographic Oceans*; in fact I got the sense that Holmes was constantly ready to start rocking out, which he does almost in clockwork fashion every couple of minutes or so, tabling some next-level video game-soundtracking-ish

gravitas, retro Tangerine Dream techno, or even more retro-sounding Return To Forever ’80s prog. Matter of fact, toward the latter, I’d say that’s what this record evinces more than anything else, a nod to ’80s snob-rock, not that there’s anything wrong with that at all, particularly given the state of the art. **A+** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

Reba McEntire, “One Night In Tulsa” (Nine North Records)



OK, stay calm, hipsters, there’s a gag in here somewhere. Reba is something of a running joke in my household, given that my wife’s from Texas (I can get her to start twanging like a complete hillbilly if I walk around the house doing my Foghorn Leghorn-meets-*Deliverance*-guy imitation for a few minutes); like, whenever there’s nothing even mildly interesting on cable (when *is* there?) I ask her if she wants me to put it on *Reba* on CMT. Anyway, this (of course) overblown, over-produced, Celine Dion-style yell-ballad single is pretty freaking good if you enjoy having your lacrimal glands squeezed like lemons (I don’t, but the last *Wicked* movie did have me sniffing through most of it, which was somehow soul-enriching). But

the funny bit here is that along with this tune, she’s releasing a bunch of new singles and mini-EPs and such over the next couple of weeks, which is evidence that the music industry is taking its product-release-schedule ideas from the rap world. Now, if that’s not hilarious, I don’t know what is. **A** —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• The new music albums scheduled to be released this Friday, April 24, are on the docket, and, as always, I am full of hope that at least one will be decent when I preview them for you in this multiple award-winning music-preview column. Speaking of that, a lot of people message me with questions like, “Hey, man, what is your writing process, like, how does your tummy withstand all the horrible music you expose yourself to on a weekly basis, and plus also, P.S., I hate you forever because of what you said about the new ___ album, why are you so stupid?” Well, that’s a two-part question, so after endeavoring to triangulate the hypotenuse of the biscuit, I’ll reveal my writing process, which is a simple one: You see, ever since I was old enough to construct a run-on sentence — I think I was in second grade — every time I see a blank page, be it physical sheet of ink-ready whatever, like a priceless ancient Egyptian scroll, or a virtual void like a Word document window that’s empty except for a popup bubble of Progressive Insurance spam, I feel compelled to fill it with stuff. That’s the secret, folks. Born writers — and I consider myself to be one, given that I’ve published two obscure books and “penned” (now there’s a word that needs to die) a music column for 23 years now — don’t know what “writer’s block” is even like. Now as to the second segment of the question, the answer can be found within the verbiage of the first segment: I’d be a lot less stupid if 98 percent of the music I listen to every week in order to fill this space with stuff weren’t so bloody awful, boring and/or derivative. While I’m at it, I may as well go full meta with a confession: Like most weeks, today I tried to write most of the opening riff of this multiple award-yadda yadda before even looking at the list of new albums I’ll cover here. So let’s do that now, look at the list. Ah, here’s one that’ll make a nice curveball, put on your cowboy hats, fam, it’s Georgia blockhead **Jason Aldean** with his 12th LP, *Songs About Us!* Will there be a politically annoying video for the new single, “Dust On The Bottle,” like when he did the blockheaded video for his 2023 tune “Try That in a Small Town,” or is the new one just a normal drinking song? Yup, it’s the latter, they’re sitting on stools, just pickin’ and grinnin’, you know how it goes, the tune rips off the riff from Electric Light Orchestra’s “Do Ya,” and it’s about drinking, what more do you people even need?

• **Meghan Trainor**, now there’s a familiar name, the gal who did the novelty twerking song “All About That Bass,” were you aware of that silly thing or were you gainfully employed and happily existing without twerking songs? She grew up in Nantucket, Mass., which automatically qualifies her as a nepo baby; her parents are jewelers, on Nantucket, do you have any idea what a string of plastic Mardi Gras beads costs in a Nantucket gift shop, probably \$8,000 plus Massachusetts tax! But wait, she’s not just a nepo baby, she’s also a one-hit wonder who hasn’t broken the Top Ten since “...Bass,” but maybe “Still Don’t Care” from her new album *Toy With Me* will break the spell — nope, it’s just “All About The Bass” if The Corrs had done it. Avoid.

• Is it OK to talk about **Foo Fighters** again (not that I want to) or is Dave Grohl still canceled for being creepy? Whatever, their new one, *Your Favorite Toy*, includes its title track, which is pretty neat if you ever liked No Wave music, and I hope you did.

• We’ll call it a multiple award-winning column with Canadian indie band **Metric**, whose new LP, *Romanticize The Dive*, features the single “Time Is A Bomb,” a listenable-enough song that’s part Garbage and part Echosmith, I don’t hate it. —Eric W. Saeger 🍷

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

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POP CULTURE BOOKS

Strangers, by Belle Burden (The Dial Press, 241 pages)

After Belle Burden and her husband bought a house on Martha's Vineyard, they became interested in ospreys. Raptors that mate for life, the birds live near water, and a pair nested on Burden's property, to the family's delight.

The ospreys are a motif threaded through Burden's new memoir, *Strangers*, born of a viral New York Times essay titled "Was I Married to a Stranger?" about how Burden's husband abruptly moved out when she learned he was having an affair, leaving her to question whether she ever knew the man she'd been married to for two decades.

After the essay was published, Burden received shaming emails, some calling her a bad mother for casting the father of her children as a weapons-grade jerk. But she also got notes from people who said her story helped them get through their divorce. And she had always wanted to be a writer, a dream cast aside by early harsh feedback and a law degree.

Throw in Burden's lofty pedigree — John Jay and the Vanderbilts are in her family lineage — and of course, publishers wanted her

to tell more. The memoir has gotten widespread publicity, from People magazine to Town & Country.

But this isn't so much a book about a celebrity divorce as it is a book about ordinary heartbreak. Burden begins by recounting the details of the evening when she listened to a voicemail from a man who said her husband was having an affair with his wife. She confronts James — the useless pseudonym she gives her husband (his real name is a click away on Google) — and he assures her the relationship is meaningless and will end. But the next morning he tells her he wants a divorce. "You can have the house and the apartment. You can have custody of the kids. I don't want it. I don't want any of it," he says. Burden was leveled. As she tried to get answers from James, he grew colder.

As she wades into legal machinations of divorce, she reflects on their courtship and the life she had enjoyed until that point.

To the reader there are many red flags. James has a bad-boy history and a controlling nature: Three weeks after they started a romantic relationship, he said, "Tell me you love me" to her. When, after having three children and staying home to care for them, she gets a job offer, he decides the answer is



no. He becomes increasingly obsessed with his work; she, increasingly obsessed with family life.

After James left, everything about Bur-

den's life was cast in a different light, even her custom of sending Christmas cards every year. When holiday cards began to arrive from married friends, she tore them up; they seemed boastful, she writes, and a painful reminder of what she no longer had. She vowed to never send Christmas cards again.

There is little in the way of mystery here, but for how the court case turns out — whether Burden gets to keep the two homes she bought with the entirety of her trust funds, or whether her husband, a hedge-fund manager, gets half of them. It's important to note that James has told The New York Times that his recollections of some events are different from hers, as is his assessment of what kind of father he is to their children.

The real-time action in *Strangers* spans just the timeline of the divorce, from her husband telling her he was done to the finalization of the courts, the ospreys accompanying us all the way. This is a bit predictable, as is the self-actualization Burden reaches. No memoir of misery is complete without the realization that all the pain was somehow worth it. *Strangers* is well-written but also well-trod. **B+** —*Jennifer Graham*

Books

- **Kathleen Bailey** presents her book *A History Lover's Guide to New Hampshire* on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at the Bixby Library (Town Hall, 2 New Boston Road, Francestown).
- **Julie Dobrow** presents *Love and Loss After Wounded Knee*, a dual biography of two activists, on Thursday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Sy Montgomery and Matt Patterson** will talk about their book *Of Time and Turtles* on Thursday, April 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the BNH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord), hosted by Concord Public Library. Reserve tickets at ccanh.com.
- **Scot Weidensaul** will talk about his new book *The Return of the Oystercatcher* on Thursday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at The Music Hall Lounge (131 Congress St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org). Ticket packages cost \$48 and include a signed book.
- **Laura Knoy** will talk about her book *The Shopkeeper of Alsace* on Saturday, April 25, at 11 a.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com).
- **C.J. Dotson** will talk about her latest horror novel, *These Familiar Walls*, in a conversation with fellow horror author Sam Rebelein on Thursday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Bill Ranauro** will talk about his book *The Chosen City*, about the Nashua Dodgers' signing of players Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe, on Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst St.,

Nashua, balinbooks.com).

- **Diane Les Becquets** will talk about her latest novel, *Where the Water Meets the Sky*, on Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Keith O'Brien** will talk about his newest book, *Heartland*, the story of Larry Bird's rise to college basketball stardom, on Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m. at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com).
- **Miriam Horn** will talk about her new book, *Homesick for a World Unknown*, a biography of field biologist George Schaller, on Thursday, May 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Scott Ferson** will talk about his new book *How the Democrats Lost America*, on Thursday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Kristy Halvorsen** will talk about her travel memoir *Perfect Unfolding*, on Thursday, May 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, gibsonsbookstore.com).
- **Matt Haig** will talk about his novel *The Midnight Train* on Monday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at the Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org). Ticket packages cost \$46 and include a signed book.

Virtual events

- **2026 Nature book club** hosted by NH Audubon is meeting via Zoom every other month on the second Thursday of the month for discussions facilitated by Devin Guilfoyle, Newfound Center

Coordinator and Environmental Educator. Visit nhaudubon.org to register for a session and get a copy of discussion questions. May book is *The Feather Detective* by Chris Sweeney. August book is *Forest Euphoria* by Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian. November book is *Rebugging the Planet* by Vicki Hird.

Book events

- **Audiobook and Climb Night** is Friday, April 24, 6-8 p.m. at NH Climbing & Fitness (10 Langdon Ave., Concord) in partnership with Gibson's Bookstore and Libro.fm. Your \$25 ticket includes day pass and all climbing rentals, a gym tour and orientation, and staff available for assistance. Bring your own wireless headphones and listen to your audiobook while you climb. See gibsonsbookstore.com.
- **Bookish bingo and bookstore pop-up** with Bookish Bliss on Saturday, April 25, at Clemento's Pizzeria & Brew (160 Washington St., Rochester). Mobile bookstore pop-up from 3 to 5 p.m. Bookish Bingo starts at 5:30 p.m.; \$25 entry includes all 10 rounds of bingo. Prizes may include special-edition books, gift baskets and bookish merch. See bookish-blissbooks.com or find @bookish-blissbooks on Instagram for tickets.
- **Bookish Bliss mobile bookstore pop-up** on Sunday, April 26, 1-4 p.m. at Sunstone Brewing Co. (298 Rockingham Road, Londonderry).
- **Bookish bingo with Bookish Bliss** on Tuesday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m. at Cork N' Keg (inside Strikers East, 4 Essex Dr., Raymond). \$25 entry includes all 10 rounds of bingo played. Prizes may include spe-

cial-edition books, gift baskets and bookish merch. See bookish-blissbooks.com or find @bookish-blissbooks on Instagram for tickets.

- **Pouring Over Pages** romance book and wine pairing on Saturday, May 9, 6-8 p.m. at Averill House Vineyard (21 Averill Road, Brookline, 244-3165, averillhousevineyard.com). Enjoy four wines paired with four romantic reads; participate in playful bookish games, share risqué reviews, enter raffles and shop for books and wine. General admission \$45; VIP admission \$65; see Averill House website for details or to purchase tickets.

History, stories, discussions & lectures

- **Science on Tap** informal monthly discussion with local scientists and

experts, offered by the SEE Science Center, held at Stark Brewing Co. in Manchester. Advanced sign-up is appreciated; sign up via see-science-center.org. Food and drink are available for purchase. Doors open at 5 p.m. and discussion starts at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 12, topic is "Innovation in the Milliards"

- **Ken Burns and the American Idea** on Tuesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at Capitol Center for the Arts' Chubb Theatre (44 S. Main St., Concord). This event will be hosted by journalist and author Laura Knoy and will feature a conversation with Ken Burns and excerpts from several of his films. Tickets \$25 at ccanh.com; VIP tickets available.

- **The Moth Mainstage** true stories told live on Friday, June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Music Hall Historic Theater (28 Chest-

nut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org). Tickets start at \$53.50 via the Music Hall website. Visit themoth.org/mainstage for more.

Book clubs

- **Bookery** Monthly. Third Thursday, 6 p.m. 844 Elm St., Manchester. Visit bookerymht.com/book-club for a list of upcoming titles or call 836-6600.
- **To Share Brewing Co.** 720 Union St., Manchester. Monthly. Second Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. RSVP required. Visit tosharebrewing.com or call 836-6947. May 14, *Sociopath: A Memoir*. June 11: *Atmosphere*.
- **Gibson's Bookstore** Monthly. First Monday, 5:30 p.m. 45 S. Main St., Concord. Visit gibsonsbookstore.com/gibsons-book-club or call 224-0562.

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EMMA STRAUB

Author and Brooklyn bookstore owner **Emma Straub** will talk about her latest novel, *American Fantasy*, on Tuesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at the Bank of NH Stage (16 S. Main St., Concord) as part of the Authors on Main series hosted by Gibson's Bookstore, NHPR and the BNH Stage.

Straub is also the author of bestsellers *This Time Tomorrow*, *The Vacationers*, *Modern Lovers* and other

novels.

For this event, Straub will be in conversation with *All Things Considered* host Julia Furukawa.

A signing line will follow the talk. Tickets are \$40 for one admission plus one book or \$50 for two admissions and one book, via ccanh.com. *Featured Photo by ALPHA SMOOT.*



***In Trees*, by Robert Moor** (Simon & Schuster, 372 pages)

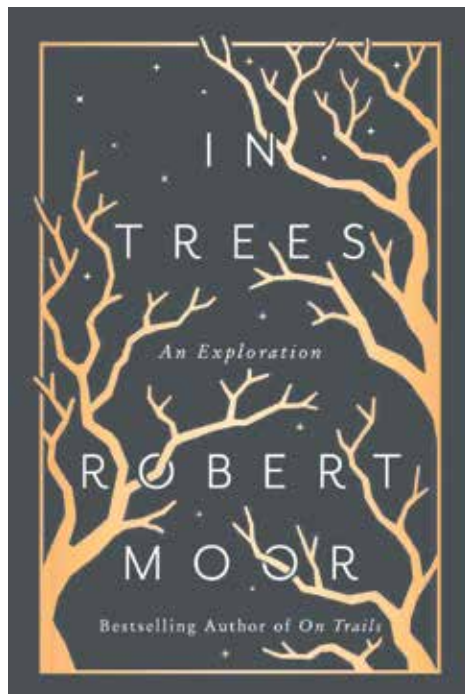
“A tree is not just a thing made up of bark and leaves and sap and wood. At its core, a tree is not even really a noun. It is more like a verb.”

With that musing, journalist Robert Moor puts readers on notice that *In Trees* aspires to be a combination of qualities he ascribes to trees: “something inventive, exacting and long-lasting. Something wise.” He largely succeeds. *In Trees* entwines a decade of hands-on research — to include climbing trees, sleeping in them and protesting in them — with lyrical philosophy. The result is an exploration of everything even remotely related to trees.

If, Moor writes, “we could watch the full life cycle of an oak play out in a few seconds, it would look as violent as a fireworks display.” He delves into the three simultaneous processes that result in a mature tree — branching, pruning and gnarling — and proposes that all of life follows much the same pattern. “In one sense, they are nothing more than very big plants,” he writes, but they take hold of the human imagination in a way that other plants don’t, almost god-like in the way that they outlive human beings and provide for us.”

Moor has been interested in trees and their significance ever since he spent time at a monastery in India and visited the site of the Bodhi tree, where the Buddha is believed to have achieved enlightenment. (Moor describes the tree as “a huge ficus with low crooked pale arms propped up by metal crutches, like some kind of decrepit extraterrestrial.”)

But mild interest turned to fascination when



he, like Thoreau, went to the woods to live, moving from a New York City apartment to a cabin in British Columbia. For a while it was enough to sit under trees and think about them, but one day Moor felt the urge to climb one, something he hadn’t done since he was a kid.

The urge, however, was thwarted by fear, and so he sought out an instructor, a British man who sees tree climbing as a lost human skill. Under the guidance of this man (who never wears shoes, except when rock climbing, and sees the destruction of a tree as similar to the harpooning of a whale), he comes to see tree climbing as a form of “rewilding” —

rewiring the brain in healthy ways.

Later he travels to the World Bonsai Convention near Tokyo, where he considers the question “What is a tree?” in the company of people who snip and trim them into myriad shapes, and later he attempts to nurture a bonsai himself with fairly disastrous results. (After he failed to water it for a while, he writes, “it had taken on a raw-spined, mangey look, like a former show poodle gone feral.”) There was, it seems, no limit to his travel budget. He goes to Papua, in Indonesia, where a tribe called the Korowai lives in treehouses deep in a jungle and mysteriously open themselves up to anthropologists and writers gaping at their way of life; getting there requires more than four hours of walking. With his husband, he goes to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, searching for the “very stem of the human family tree,” in the form of Lucy, the 3.2-million-year-old fossilized remains, weirdly named after a Beatles song. Then on to Tanzania, searching for wild apes, another component in the human family tree. This is a serious amount of branching out from the core topic.

Nowhere, however, does he stray so far from the Joyce Kilmer vision of trees, however, as when, mid-book, he departs on a story we don’t see coming: how, on a genealogical project with his father, they are confronted with the knowledge that they are descended from a southern physician who owned enslaved people and had children with at least one of them. This leads Moor to track down a cousin he had never known about, a woman who has Black heritage and is a family physician in California. They get to know each other and ultimately take a road trip to Alabama togeth-

er to visit various civil rights monuments and even try to track down the grave of the enslaved woman who was the genesis of their shared history.

The story fits within the theme of the book in two ways: Moor’s exploration of family trees, and, in a more sinister way, the horrific lynchings of the Jim Crow era in which “Southerners deliberately refashioned trees into murder weapons — murder weapons that lived on for hundreds of years, often in places like the town square — to remind the town’s Black residents to remain subservient.”

It is a dark and poignant chapter that is a startling departure from the rest of the book, although Moor does do a fair bit of preaching about what’s been called the “Great Uprooting” — the abandonment of close-to-the-land lifestyles caused by industrialization and other forces. It was, he says, a change in both the soil and the soul.

Moor, who for the most part nicely blends humor and serious reflection, previously won praise for a similar book, *On Trails*, which won the National Outdoor Book Award in 2017. *In Trees* seems a sequel of sorts, fortuitously timed for your celebration of Arbor Day, April 24. You are celebrating Arbor Day, aren’t you? It would surely please Moor, who confesses that he hopes to “arborize humanity” with this book. This is his core advice: “Learn to branch out like a tree, to let go like a tree, to weather hardship like a tree, to rise above like a tree, to set down roots like a tree.” And maybe you climb a tree, as well, spider monkey. **B+**

—Jennifer Graham 🍷

◀ 26 • Science Fiction Book Club

meets on the third Thursday of each month at Balin Books (375 Amherst St., Nashua, balinbooks.com). There are no monthly assigned books, just exchanges of book recommendations with lively discussions.

• **Queerlective Book Club** meets via Zoom at 6 p.m. on alternate Mondays. Sign up via queerlective.com.

• **Popular Science Book Group** meets online on certain Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. hosted by Derry Public

Library (432-6140). Registration is required in order to join the Zoom meeting; register via derrypl.org.

• **Nashua Public Library Online.** Monthly. Second Friday, 3 p.m. Call 589-4611, email information@nashualibrary.org or visit nashualibrary.org.

Poetry

• **Poetry Society of New Hampshire** holds monthly poetry readings at Gibson’s Bookstore (45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com), with reading followed by an open mic. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged.

• **Poetry Reading Group** once a month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at MainStreet BookEnds (16 E. Main St., Warner, mainstreetbookends.com). Saturday, May 2, open session. Saturday, June 6, discussing *New and Selected Poems* by Marie Howe.

• **Friday Night Jam** hybrid open mic welcomes poets, writers, musicians and performance artists at Bookery (844 Elm St., Manchester, bookerymht.com) on the last Friday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. Free admission, join in person or virtually via Zoom.

• **Poetry Conversations** on the third Wednesday of each month from 3 to 4 p.m. at Pembroke Town Library (313 Pembroke St., Pembroke). This is an opportunity to share favorite poets and poems.

• **Poetry Night**, an ongoing poetry open mic series, takes place every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Stark Brew-

ing Co. (50 N. Commercial St., Manchester). Follow them on Facebook @slamfreeordie for updates on upcoming events and appearances.

Writers groups

• **Veterans’ Voices** monthly Zoom-based writing program offers veterans and wounded warriors a supportive, trauma-informed environment to explore journaling, writing and memoir. Each 60- to 90-minute workshop is led by an experienced instructor.

This is a project of the New Hampshire Writers’ Project; visit nhwritersproject.org/veterans.

• **Manchester City Library Writers’ Group** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Hunt Room at the library (405 Pine St., Manchester; 624-6550, manchesterlibrary.org). Sign-up is required; sign up via the library calendar on the library’s website. Virtual attendance is available. For information, call 624-6550, ext. 7620, or email tkimsey@manchesternh.gov.

Film

Venues

BNH Stage in Concord 16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, banknhstage.com

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

Chunky’s Cinema Pub 707 Huse Road, Manchester, chunkys.com

Cinemark Rockingham Park 12 15 Mall Road, Salem

Fathom Entertainment fathomentertainment.com

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

Milford Drive-In 531 Elm St., Milford, milforddrivein.com

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

O’Neil Cinemas Londonderry 16 Orchard View Drive, Londonderry, 877-666-8437, londonderry.oneilcinemas.com

Park Theatre 19 Main St., Jaffrey, theparktheatre.org

Red River Theatres 11 S. Main St., Concord, 224-4600, redrivertheatres.org

Regal Fox Run Stadium 15 45 Gosling Road, Newington, regmovies.com

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

Smitty’s Cinema 630 W. Main St., Tilton, 286-3275, smittyscinema.com

The Strand 20 Third St., Dover, 343-

1899, thestranddover.com

Wilton Town Hall Theatre 40 Main St., Wilton, wiltontownhalltheatre.com, 654-3456

Film

• **Project Hail Mary** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, April 23, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, 12:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Monday, April 27, 3:45 & 7 p.m.; Tuesday, April 28, 3:45 p.m.; Wednesday, April 29, at 12:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m.

• **The Christophers** (R, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, April 23, 4 to 6:45 p.m.; Friday, April 24, through Sunday,

April 26, 12:45, 3, 5:15 & 7:30 p.m.; Monday, April 27, and Tuesday, April 28, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, April 29, at 12:45, 3, 5:15 & 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 30, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

• **Michael** (PG-13, 2026) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Thursday, April 23, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Friday, April 24, through Sunday, April 26, at 1:15, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m.; Monday, April 27, through Thursday, April 30, 4:15 & 7:15 p.m. (also 1:15 on April 29).

• **The Librarians** (2025) will screen at Red River Theatres in Concord on Saturday, April 25, at 10 a.m. The screening will be followed by a discussion. Register at the theater’s website.

• **Arco** (2025) will screen at The Music Hall in Portsmouth on Sunday, April 26, at 1 p.m.

• **The Silence of the Lambs** (1991) gets its 35-year anniversary screening via Fathom Entertainment on April 26 and April 29. See fathomentertainment.com for times and theater locations.

• **Exhibition on Screen — Caravaggio** will screen at The Music Hall in Portsmouth on Sunday, April 26, at 4 p.m.

• **Princess Mononoke** (PG-13, 1997), the dubbed version, will screen Tuesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at Red River Theatres in Concord.

• **Steal This Story, Please!** (R, 2026), a documentary about journalist Amy

Goodman of *Democracy Now!*, will screen at the Music Hall in Portsmouth on Tuesday, April 28, at 7 p.m.; Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m.; Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m.

• **The Bad Guys** (PG, 2022) will screen at Flying Monkey in Plymouth Wednesday, April 29, 2 p.m.

• **The Bad Guys 2** (PG, 2025) will screen at Flying Monkey in Plymouth Wednesday, April 29, 6 p.m.

• **Napoleon Dynamite Live** comes to the Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St. in Nashua, nashuacenterforthearts.com, on Saturday, May 2, at 7 p.m. with a screening and the film’s stars.

• **Napoleon Dynamite** (PG, 2004) will screen at Flying Monkey in Plymouth on Sunday, May 3, at 6 p.m.

THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **She showcase:** A theatrical tribute to more than two dozen female solo icons and groups, **Crowned28** ranges from Aretha to Lady Gaga. It's the latest from Manchester singer Jordan Quinn, who did the diva-centric *Queens* a while back. The genre-fluid show offers hits from Heart, Linda Ronstadt and Pat Benatar, along with Celine Dion, Dolly Parton and Tina Turner, all backed by a full band. Thursday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m., Rex Theatre, 23 Amherst St., Manchester, \$30, palacetheatre.org.

• **Solidarity songs:** To benefit NH Immigrant Mutual Aid Fund, **Joyful Resistance: A Night of Protest Songs** raises up music as a means to effect social change, from Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger to Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen. The event is hosted by Tess George and The Common Good Chorus, with performances from The Rise Up Singers, Fortune's Favor, and No Planet B. Friday, April 24, 7 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 58 Lowell St., Nashua, uunashua.org.

• **Local lights:** Celebrating the release of their new album *Off The Grid*, **Slim Volume** performs in downtown Concord. The LP offers lush harmonies, jangly riffs and modern lyrics — for the latter, check out “6:51” and the title cut. It's another winner from one of New Hampshire's standout acts. The show opens with fellow New Englanders Regals, and Hey, I'm Outside, the latter led by a pair of Southern expats. Friday, April 24, 8 p.m., BNH Stage, 16 S. Main St., \$18, ccanh.com.

• **Reliable rockers:** Few Granite State bands can bring the party like **Conniption Fits**, a rollicking power trio that's heated up regional nightclubs for multiple decades. From MTV staples like “Come On Eileen” to contemporary hits from Kings of Leon, Bruno Mars and Lorde, the band knows how to get crowds dancing. Their original project Echo the Divide is also very good. Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m., Stumble Inn Bar & Grill, 20 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, conniptionfits.com.

• **Fleet fellow:** A short New England run for **Robin Pecknold** wraps up in Nashua. It's been close to two years since his band Fleet Foxes has performed, so a solo acoustic set is a welcome tonic for fans. Along with favorites like “Helplessness Blues” and “Mykonos,” Pecknold in the past has done Joni Mitchell's “Amelia” and Glen Campbell's “Wichita Lineman,” so expect surprises. Sunday, April 26, 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts, 201 Main St., Nashua, \$57 and up, etix.com. 🍷

NITE Double play

Orchestral rock and Scorpions music from Uli Jon Roth

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

On his current Pictures of Destiny tour, Uli Jon Roth balances the music he made with Scorpions and his solo material by playing two full shows in three hours. He begins with the classical rock he began making after he left the group, with his original films and artwork on a screen behind him. The set often ends with a new arrangement of “Sails of Charon.”

Perhaps his best-known song with the German hard rocker band, it's also a bridge to the fan-pleasing second half. With his full band, Roth does a front-to-back performance of *Virgin Killer*, to help celebrate its 50th anniversary this year, followed by a best-of from his time in Scorpions. Usually there's a faithful take of “Sails of Charon.”

Roth is realistic that the Scorpions material made his name, while the more complex work that followed didn't cross into the mainstream.

“I have a new Uli audience who are more into the new stuff,” he said from a tour stop in Denver. “Then there are those brought up with *Tokyo Tapes* and that kind of stuff. My performances reflect that.”

For many years Roth chafed at the nostalgia of it all, but he now leans into pleasing Scorpions fans.

“Actually, I do enjoy playing it,” he said — particularly 1976's *Virgin Killer*. “It feels really fresh. We are doing it slightly differently from the originals, and it feels like it was written now in some strange way.”

The key, it seems, has been learning to bring his current sensibility to the older songs rather than merely recreating them — “Sails of Charon” is a good example. “That's undergone lots of transformations over the years,” he said. “Simply because I was never satisfied with the original arrangement; I always thought it was slightly unfinished.”

At his upcoming Tupelo Music Hall show Roth will preview material from *Requiem for an Angel*, a project he returned to recently after shelving it for two decades. Over the past year strings, percussion, drums and guitar tracks were recorded in the studio, and parts of



Uli Jon Roth. Courtesy photo.

it were performed on a recent Japan tour.

Requiem for an Angel is a large-scale orchestral tribute to Monica Dannemann, an artist Roth met in the mid-1970s. The two were life partners until her death in 1996. Dannemann was crucial to his creative growth, creating artwork for his records and co-writing songs.

“She was always an inspiration; I was really privileged to have even met her,” Roth recalled. “She is still part of my life, because when she passed away, she's basically irreplaceable — not just for me, but for all of our circle of friends. She is one of these people who is really sorely missed.”

For the first half of the show Roth relies on computer-backed orchestral music. That's due both to modern music industry economics and personal preference going back years.

“I'm utilizing technology to the max; I always have,” he said. “We can't carry an orchestra around with us, but I am playing everything live.”

A multimedia show utilizing film, his projected paintings (also on display in the lobby), and time-synced visual footage allows Roth to bring a hundred-piece orchestra's worth of ambition to small venues like Tupelo. Not that he wouldn't like the real thing.

“It would be a lot of fun,” he said. “But nobody would pay for it.”

Roth is equally unbothered by AI's encroachment on creative fields.

“Unlike most of my peers, I'm not afraid of AI — I love it,” he said, adding that he uses it to refine compositions for his videos and assist in the early stages of his paintings before committing to oil on canvas.

He's also not worried about things like the recent Spotify dustup when an AI “artist” built up big streaming numbers with human-free music. He welcomes it.

“If the day comes that AI creates a better piece of music, then so be it,” he said. “You know, let the best computer win.”

There is one genre that Roth is not at all interested in, machine made or otherwise.

“I'm really not a heavy metal fan,” he said. “The worst is death metal and black metal. I can't stand it because there's no wholesomeness in it. It's just a bunch of question marks and no answers.” 🍷

Uli Jon Roth

When: Friday, April 24, 7 p.m.

Where: Tupelo Music Hall, 10 A St., Derry

Tickets: \$50 at tupelohall.com

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Weekly comedy nights

• **Wednesdays** Ruby Room at the Shaskeen in Manchester, 9 p.m.

Open mic comedy nights

• **Jokes on Cue** hosted by Joe Nahme at Wow Billiards, 2 N. Main St. in Concord, Mondays, 8 p.m.

• **Moka Mic** hosted by Alex Lachance at Moka Pot, 8

Hanover St. in Manchester, Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m.

• **BAD BRGR** hosted by Mik Skowronek 1015 Elm St. in Manchester, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

• **This Must Be the Mic** co-hosted by Tucker Sampson Hop Knot, 1000 Elm St. in Manchester, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

• **Laugh Attic** hosted by Danny Pee Strange Brew, 88 Market St. in Manchester, Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.

• **Candia Road Brewing** host-

ed by Pete Trubble Morse 840 Candia Road in Manchester, first and third Thursdays, 6 p.m.

Events

• **Steve Sweeney/Johnny Pizzi** Cello's Farmhouse in Raymond, Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m.

• **Lenny Clarke** Vanderbilt Room in Hudson Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.

• **James Austin Johnson** Nashua Center for the Arts, Thursday,

April 23, 8 p.m.

• **Comedy Night** Don't Tell Comedy in Manchester, Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m.

• **Rick Thomas** Nashua Center for the Arts, Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

• **TTom Clark** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

• **Juston McKinney** Rochester Opera House, Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

• **Laugh Attic Roasts** Strange

Brew Tavern in Manchester, Friday, April 24, 8 p.m.

• **Hi, I'm Mike Comedy with Michael Freeman** Henniker Brewing Co., Saturday, April 25, at 7 p.m.

• **Jim Breuer** Colonial in Laco-

nia, Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m.

• **Steve Scarfo** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m.

• **Tim McKeever** Chunky's in Manchester, Saturday, April 25, 8:30 p.m.

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Amherst
LaBelle Winery 345
Route 101, 672-9898

Auburn
Auburn Pitts 167 Rock-
ingham Road, 622-6564

Barnstead
JJ Goodwin's: 769 Sun-
cook Valley Road, 269-
0059

Bedford
Copper Door 15 Leavy
Drive, 488-2677
Murphy's Carriage
House 393 Route 101,
488-5875

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

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

Chichester

Flannel Tavern 345 Sun-
cook Valley Road, 406-
1196

Concord
The Barley House 132
N. Main St., 228-6363
Feathered Friend 231 S.
Main St., 715-2347
The Forum Pub 15 Vil-
lage St., 565-3100
Hermanos Cocina Mex-
icana 11 Hills Ave., 224-
5669
Tandy's Pub & Grille 1
Eagle Square, 856-7614
Uno Pizzeria 15 Fort
Eddy Road, 226-8667

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

Deerfield
Big Dog Pub 43 North
Road, 463-3769

Derry
Fody's Tavern 187 Rock-
ingham Road, 404-6946
LaBelle Winery 14
Route 111, 672-9898

Dover
Auspicious Brew 1
Washington St., 953-7240
Cara Irish Pub &
Restaurant 11 Fourth St.,
343-4390

Epping
Holy Grail 64 Main St.,
679-9559
Telly's Restaurant &
Pizzeria 235 Calef Hwy.,
679-8225

Epsom
Hill Top Pizzeria 1724
Dover Road, 736-0027

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

Farmington
Hawg's Pen 1114 Route
11, 755-3301

Gilford
Patrick's 18 Weirs Road,
293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle 25 Main
St., 497-8230

Hampton
The Goat 20 L St., 601-
6928
L Street Tavern 603 17 L
St., 967-4777

Sea Ketch 127 Ocean
Blvd., 926-0324
Wally's Pub 144 Ash-
worth Ave., 926-6954
Whym Craft Pub &
Brewery 853 Lafayette
Road, 601-2801

Hudson
The Bar 2B Burnham
Road
Luk's Bar & Grill 142
Lowell Road, 889-9900
Lynn's 102 Tavern 76
Derry Road, 943-7832

Kingston
Saddle Up Saloon 92
Route 125, 369-6962

Laconia
405 Pub & Grill 405
Union St.
Defiant Records &
Craft Beer 609 Main St.,
527-8310
Fratello's 799 Union
Ave., 528-2022
Tower Hill Tavern 264
Lakeside Ave., 366-9100

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

Stumble Inn 20 Rocking-
ham Road, 432-3210
Sunstone Brewing Co.
298 Rockingham Road,
216-1808

Manchester
Backyard Brewery 1211
S. Mammoth Road, 623-
3545
Derryfield Country
Club 625 Mammoth
Road, 623-2880
The Foundry 50 Com-
mercial St., 836-1925
Fratello's 155 Dow St.,
624-2022
The Goat 50 Old Granite
St.
Great North Aleworks
1050 Holt Ave., 858-5789
The Hill Bar & Grille
McIntyre Ski Area, 50
Chalet Ct., 622-6159
KC's Rib Shack 837
Second St., 627-RIBS
Salona Bar & Grill 128
Maple St., 624-4020
Shaskeen Pub 909 Elm
St., 625-0246
South Side Tavern 1279
S. Willow St., 935-9947
Stark Brewing Co. 500
Commercial St., 625-
4444
Strange Brew 88 Market
St., 666-4292
To Share Brewing 720
Union St., 836-6947

Meredith
Copper Kettle Tavern
Hart's Turkey Farm, 223
DW Highway, 279-6212
Twin Barns Brewing 194
DW Highway, 279-0876

Merrimack
Homestead 641 DW
Highway, 429-2022
Tomahawk Tavern 454
DW Highway, 365-4960
Tortilla Flat 595 DW
Highway, 424-4479

Milford
Riley's Place 29 Mont
Vernon St., 380-3480
Stonecutters Pub 63
Union Square, 213-5979

Nashua
Casey Magee's Irish
Pub 8 Temple St., 484-
7400
Fody's Tavern 9 Clinton
St., 577-9015
Lost Cowboy Brewing
Co. 546 Amherst St., 600-
6800
Peddler's Daughter 48
Main St., 821-7535
San Francisco Kitchen
133 Main St., 886-8833
Spyglass Brewing 306
Innovative Way, 546-
2965
Union Public House 194
Main St., 699-8112

New Boston
Molly's Tavern &
Restaurant 35 Mont Ver-
non Road, 487-1362

Newmarket
Stone Church 5 Granite
St., 659-7700

Pembroke
Cavern Sports Bar 351
Pembroke St., 485-7777
Pembroke City Limits
134 Main St., 210-2409,
pembrokecitylimits.com

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

Plaistow
Sweet Hill Farm 82
Newton Road, 974-7279

Portsmouth
Cup of Joe 31 Market St.,
294-9404
The Gas Light 64 Market
St., 430-9122
The Goat 142 Congress
St., 590-4628
Jitto's 3131 Lafayette
Road, 436-9755
Mojo's West End Tav-

ern 95 Brewery Lane,
436-6656
Press Room 77 Daniel
St., 431-5186
Thirsty Moose Taphouse
21 Congress St., 427-
8645

Rochester
Governor's Inn 78
Wakefield St., 332-0107
Porter's 19 Hanson St.,
330-1964

Salem
Copper Door 41 S.
Broadway, 458-2033
Dreo 254 N. Broadway,
824-6337

Seabrook
Backyard Burgers &
Wings 5 Provident Way,
760-2581
Chop Shop Pub 920
Lafayette Road, 760-7706
Red's Kitchen + Tavern
530 Lafayette Road, 760-
0030

Somersworth
Earth Eagle North 350
Route 108, 841-5421

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

Thursday, April 23

Amherst

LaBelle: Studio Two, 7 p.m.

Auburn

Auburn Pitts: Nicole Knox Murphy
, 6 p.m.

Bedford

Copper Door: Jodee Frawlee, 7 p.m.

Concord

Hermanos: Matt Poirier, 6:30 p.m.

Derry

Fody's: music bingo, 7 p.m.
LaBelle: The Ozzy Experience, 7:15
p.m.

Dover

Auspicious Brew: Intricate Mouse
Work, Time Eater, Thought Sick, 7
p.m.

Epping

Telly's: Ralph Allen, 7 p.m.

Epsom

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

Farmington

The Hawg's Pen: open mic, 7 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Whym: music bingo, 6:30 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Squires of Soul, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bis-
son, 8 p.m.

Kingston

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

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Henry LaLiberte,
6 p.m.
Fratello's: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.
Tower Hill Tavern: karaoke w/ Luke
Skyrocker, 9 p.m.

Londonderry

Stumble Inn: Kitchen Party Duo, 7
p.m.

Manchester

Fratello's: Jamie Hughes, 5:30 p.m.
The Moka Pot: Live from the Coun-

tertop with Paul Driscoll, 7:30 p.m.
Revo: DJ George Cox, 9 p.m.
Shaskeen: EDM Night, 8 p.m.
Strange Brew: Becca Myari, 7 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Eddie Sands, 5:30 p.m.
Tomahawk Tavern: Chad Lamarsh,
6 p.m.
Tortilla Flat: Stephen Decuire, 6
p.m.

Milford

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

Moultonborough

Buckey's: open mic w/ DOC, 6:30
p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: open mic, 7:30 p.m.
Fody's: DJ Rich karaoke, 9:30 p.m.
Union Public House: Matt Jackson,
5:30 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Proelium w/ The Jer-
ritones, 7:30 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Ashborne,
7 p.m.

Pittsfield

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

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Clint Lapointe, 5 p.m.
Cup of Joe: Peter Whitehead, 8 p.m.

Press Room: Diaspora Radio, 8 p.m.

Rochester

Governor's Inn: Josh Smith, 6 p.m.

Salem

Copper Door: Justin Jordan, 7 p.m.

Somersworth

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

Warner

The Local: Midge, 5 p.m.

Friday, April 24

Alton Bay

Foster's Tavern: Mark Dionne, 6
p.m.

Auburn

Auburn Pitts: 5 Days Apart, 7 p.m.

Bedford

Murphy's: Bella Perrotta, 6 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Rich Wallace, 6 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend: Gus & Jean, 6
p.m.
The Forum: Lucas Gallo, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: The KP Project, 6:30
p.m.

Deerfield

Big Dog Pub: Nicole Knox Murphy,
6 p.m.

Dover

Revo: Wheel of Awesome, 8 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: Jodee Frawlee, 6 p.m.
Telly's: 603's, 8 p.m.

Hampton

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: Fast Times, 9 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's: Matt Bergeron, 6 p.m.
Lynn's 102: karaoke w/George Bis-
son, 8 p.m.

Laconia

405 Pub & Grill: Kimayo, 7 p.m.
Defiant Records: Justin Jordan, 5:30
p.m.
Fratello's: Curtis Daniel, 5:30 p.m.
Tower Hill Tavern: karaoke w/ DJ
Tim, 9 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Joe McDonald, 6 p.m.
Stumble Inn: Blue Matter, 8 p.m.
Sunstone Brewing: The Twos, 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.



YOUR FAVES

Hippo readers picked **Gus & Jean** as their favorite local musical act in our recent Best of 2026 and this weekend you can see them for yourself. The married acoustic duo "known for their creative interpretations, seamless harmonies, and undeniable chemistry," according to gusandjean.com, will be at Feathered Friend Brewing in Concord on Friday, April 24, at 6 p.m. Photo from their website.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.

Derryfield: Deja Voodoo, 8:30 p.m.

The Foundry: Matt Litzinger, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: Jump The Line, 9 p.m.

The Hill: Kat Ivy, 5:30 p.m.

Shaskeen: Missed Opportunity, Viraya, 8 p.m.

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

Stark Brewing Co.: The Cats, 6:30 p.m.

Strange Brew: The Form, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Copper Kettle Tavern: Julia Velie, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: Vale's End, 8 p.m.

Moultonborough

Buckey's: Free Will, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua

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

Fody's: RPR & Co., 10 p.m.

Lost Cowboy: Overserved Again, 7:30 p.m.

Union Public House: Jamie Hughes, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston

Molly's: Lewis Goodwin, 6 p.m.

Newmarket

Stone Church: Replaced by Robots, Gossip Collar, Bitter Pill, Crying Caleb, 8 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Sequoia Rose, 7 p.m.

Penacook

American Legion Post 31: Jennifer Mitchell, 7 p.m.

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm: Mark Huzar, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Matt Jackson, 5 p.m.

Cup of Joe: RJ Gravel, 8 p.m.

Gas Light: Jordan Holmes, 9:30 p.m.

The Goat: Chris Toler, 9 p.m.

Jitto's: Max Sullivan, 7 p.m.

Thirsty Moose: Bryan Frates, 9:30 p.m.

Rochester

Governor's Inn: The Walkouts, 7 p.m.

Salem

Dreo: Jordan Quinn, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

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

Saturday, April 25

Alton Bay

Foster's Tavern: Henry LaLiberte, 6 p.m.

Auburn

Auburn Pitts: Stitch, 7 p.m.

Bedford

Murphy's: Tyler Levs, 6 p.m.

Bow

Chen Yang Li: Brian Walker, 7 p.m.

Brookline

Alamo: Mike Preston, 6 p.m.

Concord

Feathered Friend: Dusty Gray, 6 p.m.

The Forum: acoustic circle w/ Brian Booth, 2 p.m.; sea shanty night with Michael Green, 8 p.m.

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

Contoocook

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

Dover

Revo: Blue Matter Band, 8 p.m.

Epping

Holy Grail: Mike Willis Duo, 6 p.m.

Telly's: Lewis Goodwin Duo, 8 p.m.

Hampton

The Goat: David Leshinski, 9 p.m.

L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.

Sea Ketch: Lewis Goodwin, 1 p.m.

Hudson

Luk's Bar: Casey Roop, 6 p.m.

Lynn's 102: Night Owls, 8:30 p.m.

Kingston

Saddle Up Saloon: Annie Brobst, 8:30 p.m.

Laconia

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

Fratello's: Duke Snyder, noon; Richard Cumming, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry

Coach Stop: Jared Rocco, 6 p.m.

Stumble Inn: The Casuals, 1 p.m.;

Conniption Fits, 8 p.m.

Manchester

Backyard Brewery: Justin Federico, 6 p.m.

Derryfield: Down By Ten, 8:30 p.m.

The Foundry: Jordan Quinn, 6 p.m.

Fratello's: Paul Gormley, 5:30 p.m.

The Goat: Vivid, 9 p.m.

Great North Aleworks: Upright Dogs, 4 p.m.

The Hill: Peter Pappas, 5:30 p.m.

Revo: 21st & 1st, 9 p.m.

Shaskeen: Anaria w/ Scarecrow Hill, The Innsmouth Look, 8 p.m.

Stark Brewing Co.: Nefarious Motives, 7 p.m.

Strange Brew: Peter Ward, 9 p.m.

Meredith

Twin Barns: Tom Boisse, 5 p.m.

Merrimack

Homestead: Marc Apostolides, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: Murphy Clark Band, 11 p.m.

Moultonborough

Buckey's: Ricky & The Giants, 6:30 p.m.

Nashua

Casey Magee's: BlondeDog Band, 8 p.m.

Fody's: Dis n Dat, 10 p.m.

Peddler's Daughter: GoodFoot, 9:30 p.m.

Union Public House: Ian Archibold, 7:30 p.m.

New Boston

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

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Elijah & Paige, 7 p.m.

Plaistow

Sweet Hill Farm: Townsend & Gibbs Duo, 6 p.m.

Portsmouth

Black Rock: Max Sullivan Group, 6 p.m.

Cup of Joe: Taylor Marie, 8 p.m.

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

The Goat: Garrett Smith, 9 p.m.

Press Room: Gnarly Darling & Soulcolour, 6 p.m.; Geothory X Glass

Make Your Reservation

Mother's Day BRUNCH

at The Hill Bar & Grille

May 10th

Kids under 12 are \$25 and kids under 6 eat free.
Mother's Day Brunch Buffet with an assortment of breakfast & lunch items, as well as a carving station.

Bloody Mary Bar and Drink Specials available for an additional cost.



Reservations are required and can be made by scanning here

McIntyre Ski Area
50 Chalet Way, Manchester
(603) 622-6159
mcintyreskiarea.com/the-hill-bar-and-grille/





LOCALBOYMAKESGOOD

If you've seen movies like *There's Something About Mary*, *Celtic Pride* or *The Equalizer*, then you've definitely seen **Steve Sweeney**. This beloved New England comedian has been making audiences laugh for more than five decades. He stops by Cello's Farmhouse (143 Raymond Road, Candia, 483-2000, cellosfarmhouseitalian.com) on Thursday, April 23, at 10:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 plus fees.

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WE SELL PARTS!

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Arrowhead, 10 p.m.
Thirsty Moose: Bad at Math, 9:30 p.m.

Salem
Dreo: Jonny Friday, 7 p.m.

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

Wakefield
Knotty Pine: Eric & Cliff, 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 26
Bedford
Copper Door: Mark Apostolides, 11 a.m.

Brookline
Alamo: Chris Powers, 5 p.m.

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

Concord
Feathered Friend: bluegrass jam, 1 p.m.
Hermanos: Cinnamon Jazz Trio, 5:30 p.m.
Lithermans: Ethan Cunningham, 1:30 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: Bosey Joe's Greenwave, 2 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Wally's: line dancing, 6 p.m.

Hudson
Lynn's 102: Hollie Would, 4 p.m.

Laconia
Fratello's: Denise Sanborn, 5:30 p.m.

Londonderry
Stumble Inn: Heather Anne, 4 p.m.

Manchester
Bert's Beers: Justin Surgent, 6 p.m.
The Goat: Chris Toler, 10 a.m.
Strange Brew: One Big Soul Jam, 7 p.m.

Milford
Riley's Place: blues jam, 1 p.m.; Charlie Chronopolous, 5 p.m.
Stonecutters Pub: Jenni Lynn, 4 p.m.

Moultonborough
Bucky's: Partners In Crime, 2 p.m.

Nashua
Spyglass: Rule of Two, 2 p.m.

Portsmouth
Black Rock: Jonny Friday, 5 p.m.
Press Room: Celtic Sessions, 2 p.m.

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

Monday, April 27
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.

Manchester
The Goat: 603 line dancing, 7 p.m.
Salona: music bingo with Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

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

Portsmouth
The Goat: Musical Bingo Nation, 6:30 p.m.
Press Room: Skunk Jesus w/ Crumbcatcher, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28
Concord
Barley House: Irish session, 6 p.m.
Hermanos: Paul Bourgelais, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: open mic, 8 p.m.

Dover
Auspicious Brew: The Blank Limpin & The Implements, The Big Sun, 7 p.m.

Hampton
L Street: karaoke, 9 p.m.
Whym: Bourbon and Beats, 3 p.m.

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

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

Manchester
Fratello's: Ralph Allen, 5:30 p.m.
KC's Rib Shack: Paul & Nate open mic, 7 p.m.
Strange Brew: Jordan Quinn, 8 p.m.

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

Nashua
Fody's: music bingo w/ DJ Jay, 8 p.m.
Spyglass: Kevin Horan, 5 p.m.

Portsmouth
Press Room: Blood Stained Concrete, Sinister Feeling, Zinc, & Headcase, 7 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday, April 29
Atkinson
Merrill's Tavern: Joe Winslow, 9 p.m.

Barnstead
JJ Goodwin's: music bingo w/ Jennifer Mitchell, 6 p.m.

Concord
The Forum: Jody Robichaud, 8 p.m.
Hermanos: Brian Booth, 6:30 p.m.
Tandy's: karaoke, 8 p.m.
Uno Pizzeria: Willy Chase, 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.

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MANOFMANYTALENTS

He's written, produced and drawn the cover art for almost 20 albums. He's toured the country with some of the biggest names in Americana. He's played for audiences at the legendary Newport Folk Festival and Laconia Prison. He's **Dan Blakeslee** and he's headlining the Stone Church (5 Granite St., Newmarket, 659-7700, stonechurchrocks.com) on Saturday, April 25, at 4 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 plus fees.

NITE MUSIC THIS WEEK

Merrimack

Homestead: Doug Thompson, 5:30 p.m.

Milford

Riley's: karaoke, 7 p.m.

Pembroke

Pembroke City Limits: Due South, 7 p.m.

Portsmouth

Cup of Joe: open mic, 7 p.m.
Press Room: Black Hatch & Lac-

querhead, 7 p.m.

Seabrook

Red's: Jason Michelson, 7 p.m.

◀ 28

- **New England Comedy Showcase** Shaskeen Pub in Manchester, Wednesday, April 29, 9 p.m.
- **Amy Tee/Rebecca Donohue** Music Hall Lounge in Portsmouth, Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m.
- **Mutts Gone Nuts!** Dana Center, Saint Anselm College in Manchester Friday, May 1, 7 p.m.
- **Share It with the Class: A Teacher's Comedy Show** Rex in Manchester, Friday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
- **First Friday Comedy Night** Waterhorse Pub in Franklin, Friday,

May 1, at 8 p.m.

- **Jimmy Dunn/Mitch Stinson/Kristy Keilbasinski** Dana Center, Saint Anselm College, Manchester, Saturday, May 2, 7 p.m.
- **Mark Riley** The Strand in Dover, Saturday, May 2, 7 p.m.
- **Circus Breakers** Colonial in Laco-
- **Tim McKeever** Headliners in Manchester, Saturday, May 2, 8 p.m.
- **Amy Tee Chunky's** in Manchester, Saturday, May 2, 8:30 p.m.
- **Queen City Improv** Stark Brewing Co., 500 Commercial St., Manchester, Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Liquid Therapy (14 Court St., Nashua, 402-9391) 7:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Game Changer Sports Bar (4 Orchard View Dr., Londonderry; 216-1396, gamechanger-sportsbar.com) from 8 to 10 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Fody's (187 Rockingham Road, Derry, 404-6946, fodystavern.com) 8 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Strange Brew (88 Market St., Manchester, 666-4292) 8 p.m.

• **First and third Thursday of every month** trivia at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com) 6:30 p.m.

• **Sunday** trivia at Mountain Base Brewery (553 Mast Road, No. 111, Goffstown, 315-8382) 4 p.m.

• **Monday Trivia Night with Bill Seney** at Renegade's Pub (103 Nashua Road, Londonderry, renegadespub.com) 7 p.m.

• **Monday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Thirsty Moose (360 DW Highway, Merrimack, thirstymoosetaphouse.com) 7 p.m.

• **Monday** Pub Quiz at Shaskeen (909 Elm St., Manchester, 625-0246, shaskeenirishpub.com) 7:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Able Ebenezer Brewing (31 Columbia Circle, Merrimack, 844-223-2253) 6 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Second Brook Bar & Grill (1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, secondbrook.com) 6 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at Lynn's 102 Tavern (76 Derry Road, Hudson, 943-7832, lynns102.com) 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday Trivia Night** with Bill Seney at Shopper's Pub + Eatery (18 Lake Ave., Manchester, shoppersmht.com) 7 p.m.

• **Tuesday** trivia at the Forum Pub (15 Village St., Concord, 552-0137), 8 p.m.

• **Tuesday Geeks Who Drink** trivia at Peddler's Daughter (48 Main St., Nashua, 821-7535, thepeddlersdaughter.com), 7-9 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Bert's Beers (545 Hooksett Road, Manchester, 413-5992, bertsnh.com) 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** Brews & Qs trivia,

21+, at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, 715-2347, featheredfriendbrewing.com) 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Spyglass Brewing Co. (306 Innovative Way, Nashua, 546-2965, spyglassbrewing.com) 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at East Derry Tavern (50 E. Derry Road, Derry, eastderrytavern.com) 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia with Raise the Bar at Flannel Tavern (345 Suncook Valley Road, Chichester, flannel-tavern.com) 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia with Traci Denver at Stonecutters Pub (63 Union Square, downstairs, Milford, stonecutterspub-milford.com, 633-6094) 6 p.m.

• **Wednesday** trivia at Talespinner Brewery (57 Factory St., Nashua, ramblingtale.com, 318-3220) 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 at Cheers (17 Depot Square, Concord, cheersnh.com) 7 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) 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, thegate-citycasino.com) 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday World Tavern Trivia** at Fody's Tavern (9 Clinton St., Nashua, fodystavern.com, 577-9015) 8 p.m.

Trivia & Games Game nights

• **Cribbage night** weekly on Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Feathered Friend (231 S. Main St., Concord, featheredfriendbrewing.com)

• **Bingo** on Mondays at 6 p.m. at Feathered Friend Brewing (231 S. Main St., Concord, featheredfriendbrewing.com)

• **Board game meetup** weekly on Tuesdays 5 p.m. to close at Boards & Brews (941 Elm St., Manchester, boardsandbrewsh.com)

• **Dungeons and Drafts** fourth Sundays at To Share Brewing (720 Union St., Manchester, tosharebrewing.com). Drop in. Limited space at tables; dice roll at 1:15 p.m. Free play with purchase of food or drink.

Weekly trivia

• **Thursday** trivia at Oddball Brewing (6 Glass St., Suncook, 210-5654, oddballbrewingnh.com) 6 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Lithermans (126 Hall St., Concord, lithermans.beer) 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) 6:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia Sunstone Brewing Co. (298 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 216-1808, sunstonebrewing.com) 6:30 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia with Geeks Who Drink at the Barley House (132 N. Main St., Concord, thebarleyhouse.com) 7 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at The Derryfield (625 Mammoth Road, Manchester, thederryfield.com) 7 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia with Sporcle Trivia at Uno Pizzeria & Grill (15 Fort Eddy Road, Concord; 226-8667) 6 p.m.

• **Thursday** trivia at Hop Knot (1000 Elm St., Manchester, 232-3731, hop-knotnh.com) 7 p.m.

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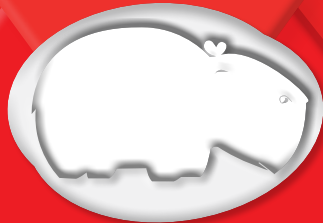
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BNH Stage 16 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com

Button Factory Stage 99 Islington St., Portsmouth, wscaf.com/event-schedule

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

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

Concord City Auditorium 2 Prince St., Concord, theaudi.org

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

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

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

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

Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Listening Room Prayers of Nature Studio, 33 Howard St., Windham, 732-3815, prayersofnature.com

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

Milk St. Studios 6 Milk St., Dover, 568-7836, milkststudios.com (venue temporarily closed)

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

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

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

The Orchard Chapel 143 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Palace Theatre 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

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

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

Rockingham Ballroom 22 Ash Swamp Road, Newmarket, rockinballroom.club

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

The Word Barn 66 Newfields Road,



Hiroya Tsukamoto

Exeter, 244-0202, thewordbarn.com

Shows

• **Raven, Slackjaw, Ravage** Thursday, April 23, at 7 p.m., Jewel

• **Richard Shindell** Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **From Broadway to the Big Screen with Jenene Caramielo** Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Palace

• **Wailin' Jennys** Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall

• **Celtic Woman** Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Chubb Theatre

• **Sam Robbins** Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Flying Goose

• **CROWNED28** (Tribute to Legendary Women in Music) Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Grace Kelly** Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Proelium/The Jerritones** Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Stone Church

• **Soul Asylum** Thursday, April 23, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Studio Two** (Beatles tribute) Thursday, April 23, 8 p.m., LaBelle Amherst

• **Crazy Train** (Ozzy Osbourne tribute) Thursday, April 23, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry

• **The Deadheads** (Grateful Dead Tribute) Friday, April 24, at 7 p.m., Jewel

• **Hiroya Tsukamoto** Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Dana Center

• **The Spinners** Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall

• **The Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Tommy Castro and the Painkillers** Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Crazy Train** (Ozzy Osbourne tribute) Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Lakeport Opera House

• **Obey Your Master** (Metallica tribute) Friday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Uli Jon Roth** Friday, April 24, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Slim Volume/Regals/Hi I'm Outside** Friday, April 24, 8 p.m., BNH Stage

• **Griffin William Sherry** Friday, April 24, 8 p.m., Word Barn

• **Fast Times** ('80s tribute) Friday, April 24, 8 p.m., Wally's

• **Brandy Irish-Gerjuoy** Saturday, April 25, 6 p.m., Hermit Woods

• **Haggard & Cashed** Saturday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., Rockingham Ballroom

• **Ward Hayden & the Outliers** Saturday, April 25, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **Cold Signal Fires/Spirit Hotel** Saturday, April 25, 7 p.m., Button Factory

• **The British Invasion Years** Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Flying Monkey

• **Makaya McCraven** Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Skynyrd's Hatchet** (Lynyrd Skynyrd/Molly Hatchet tribute) Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Chanticleer** Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Music Hall

• **Alan Doyle/Bandits on the Run** Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Blue Collar Men** (Styx tribute)/**Desolation Angels** (Bad Company tribute) Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m., Tupelo

• **Heather Maloney** Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **Lee & Dr. G** Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **Turner/Dead Weight/My Chemical Chungus** (My Chemical Romance tribute) Saturday, April 25, 8 p.m., BNH Stage

• **The Sons of Seattle Tour presents: King Animal/The Experiment** Saturday, April 25, at 8 p.m., Jewel

• **Rock & Roll Playhouse: The Music of Dave Matthews Band** Sunday, April 26, 11 a.m., BNH Stage

• **Robin Pecknold** Sunday, April 26, 7 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Takuya Kuroda** Sunday, April 26, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **The PA's** Sunday, April 26, 8 p.m., Bad Brgr

• **Rdmtion** Monday, April 27, 7 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Skunk Jesus/Crumbcatcher** Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m., Press Room

• **UNH Jazz Combos Showcase** Tuesday, April 28, 6 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Johnny Trama** Tuesday, April 28, 7 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Blood Stained Concrete/Sinister Feeling/Zinc/Headcase** Tuesday, April 28, 8 p.m., Press Room

• **Deceased with Worm Altar & Swarm of Eyes** Wednesday, April 29, 6 p.m., Jewel

• **Spencer LaJoye** Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m., Music Hall Lounge

• **Kaki King** Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Jonathan Lorentz Group** Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m., Hermit Woods

• **The Dave Matthews Tribute Band** Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Palace

• **Duane Betts & Palmetto Motel** Tuesday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Rex

• **Madeline Peyroux** Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Nashua Center for the Arts

• **Crushville Presents: Stevie Wonder vs. Earth Wind & Fire** Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m., Jimmy's

• **Completely Unchained** (Van Halen tribute) Thursday, April 30, 8 p.m., LaBelle Derry

• **The Steel Wheels** Thursday, April 30, 8 p.m., 3S Artspace

• **Sans Souci** (Jerry Garcia Band tribute) Thursday, April 30, 8 p.m., Stone Church

• **Jon Langford** Friday, May 1, 7 p.m., Word Barn

• **Eileen Ivers** Friday, May 1, 7 p.m., Park Theatre

I know a party puzzle

Across

1. 'You ___ It Well' Rod Stewart
5. Yames of Monsters Of Folk
8. A computer will store music in this
12. 'Choosin' Texas' Langley
13. '97 Van Morrison album 'The Healing ___'
14. Thornley '04 song '___ So Good' (2,3)
15. Queens Of The Stone Age pulled out a blanket and sang '___ By The Ocean' (1,3)
16. It is her 'Song', to Silverchair
17. Blues Traveler '___ Magna'
18. What player does to a nice guitar found in attic
20. Radiohead opens ___ Zero
21. Sean Kingston/Justin Bieber '___ Meenie'
22. '92 Alice In Chains 'Got Me Wrong' EP
23. '04 Beastie Boys hit '___ Trouble'
26. What Lit uses for sandwiches? (hyph)
30. English 'I Will Always Love You' singer Waller from Pop Idol
31. Fatal Local H '96 album 'As Good ___' (2,4)

34. Sofia song for a city-state kingdom in the part of Gaya confederacy
35. What out-of-tune band will do
37. This guitar effect pedal knob controls parameters
38. Leader of 60s Detroit Wheels Mitch
39. Famous Russian composer Stravinsky
40. 'Sloop John B' lyrics: "Around ___ town we did roam"
42. Zebrahead song about self expression? (1,2)
43. Foreigner '___ And Dirty'
45. U2 Live At Red Rocks: ___ Blood Red Sky (5,1)
47. U2 hits the stage '___ Little While' (2,1)
48. 'Billy Breathes' Phish ballad that they didn't want to use?
50. Bee Gees '___ Of Blue'
52. Asia '___ Moment' (4,2,3)
56. Jazzy 'Come Away With Me' songstress Jones
57. ___ Have To Do Is Dream (3,1)
58. Bruce Springsteen's 'Ghost'
59. Put on a pedestal, as to really love

- a star
60. Ozzy 'Perry Mason' lyrics "You can see ___ their faces" (2,2)
61. Neil Young "___ felt like getting high" (3,1)
62. Big name in electronics
63. 'OctaHate' singer Weaver
64. Napalm Death 'Apex Predator-Easy ___'

33. Big stars may have a lot of these former lovers
36. Company Of Thieves '___ Riches'
38. Walking Concert '___ Be Born' (3,2)
40. Dr Dre group
41. 'Baby, Come To Me' Patti, w/James Ingram
44. '85 AC/DC album 'Fly ___ Wall' (2,3)
46. Rick Rubin/Russell Simmons label (3,3)
48. Author Eudora Suzanne Vega sang of
49. Letlive singer Jason ___ Butler
50. Commotion, as a media blitz
51. Dire Straits '___ Hand'
52. Had to have this teased up and big in 80s
53. Guitarists want their hero's sound or this
54. Wings 'Mary ___ Little Lamb' (4,1)
55. What producers do to tone deaf singers
56. 'You Owe Me' rapper with Ginuwine

Down

1. Killing Heidi song for Grateful Dead's Bob?
2. Bobby Vee 'What ___ Is New'
3. Laura Marling '08 album '___ I Cannot Swim'
4. 'Back For More' hair metalers first '83 release (4,2)
5. Long-haired new age guy
6. Public ___ Ltd.
7. Jim Croce says don't screw or do this 'With Jim'
8. Jazz quartet that creates arousal?
9. Hank Williams 'I Can't Help It (___ Still In Love With You)' (2,2)
10. Pop rockers that are an acronym for "Los Angeles, New York"
11. Specific time in music
13. Garth Brooks rock persona Chris
14. Guitarist needs one to hang his axe
19. Hand down, as a musical legacy
22. Slipknot turntablist Wilson
23. Tesla 'Heaven's ___'
24. Starr of The Beatles
25. U2 "___ a girl, a girl called Party, Party Girl" (1,4)
26. A killer band obliterates or does this
27. 50s hit
28. Johnny Nash's vision?
29. Seether '___ And Effect'
32. Campus VIP at music college

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21					22				
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33			34		
35			36			37			38			
39				40				41		42		
43				44				45		46		
			47			48	49					
	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

R&R answer from pg 44 of 4/16

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

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Todd's books are available on Amazon.

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 XX.

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle A

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

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Difficulty: ★

King Classic Sudoku

Puzzle B

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

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Difficulty: ★★

King Classic Sudoku

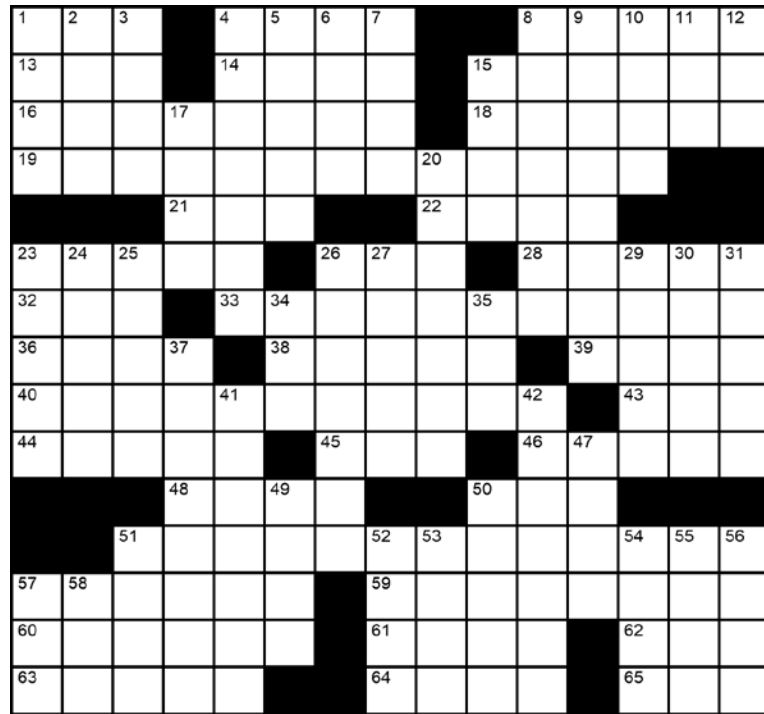
Puzzle C

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

"Letters and Numbers"—a few examples.



Across

- 1. "I got it!"
- 4. Arcade violation
- 8. Danny of "Machete"
- 13. Ballpoint pen brand
- 14. Athletic footwear brand since 1979
- 15. Decks out
- 16. Unaware
- 18. Barry Manilow's longtime label
- 19. Elvis/U2 mashup, maybe?
- 21. Stipulations
- 22. Accelerator particles
- 23. Symbol on a soprano's staff
- 26. Anti-___ hand soap
- 28. Mammoth features
- 32. Fish eggs
- 33. Do equations and receive a perfect score?
- 36. "Superfood" berry
- 38. Seven, in Spanish
- 39. Roof overhang
- 40. Squishy place to see Benjamin Franklin?
- 43. Through
- 44. Authorization
- 45. Time to access some parks
- 46. Edit

- 48. Valueless
- 50. Confidentiality contract, for short
- 51. Army of skeletons?
- 57. Finnish DJ best known for 1999's "Sandstorm"
- 59. Await
- 60. The Cars lead singer Ric
- 61. Monogram ltr.
- 62. St. intersector

- 63. Gave up
 - 64. Empty spaces
 - 65. Like sashimi
- Down**
- 1. Somewhat
 - 2. ___ jump
 - 3. Dermatological focus
 - 4. Import taxes
 - 5. Lendl and Reitman, e.g.
 - 6. Cod cousin
 - 7. "See ya"
 - 8. NHL Hall of Fame locale
 - 9. Take on liability from another company
 - 10. "To be," for Caesar
 - 11. Protrude
 - 12. ___-Locka, Fla.
 - 15. Carpenter's groove
 - 17. Merle Haggard's "___ From Muskogee"
 - 20. "Better luck next time"
 - 23. Pastureland
 - 24. Cold-weather drink
 - 25. Like kale and spinach
 - 26. Without any prior information
 - 27. Beauty brand owned by Estee Lauder
 - 29. Fend (off)
 - 30. "Dogma" director Smith
 - 31. Golfing legend Sam
 - 34. Beavers' sch.
 - 35. Bank charge
 - 37. Remark of resignation
 - 41. Badgered
 - 42. Subtracts
 - 47. Prepare potatoes, in a way

- 49. Onion's relative
 - 50. Cheapest tablet point-of-sale option
 - 51. Singer Paisley
 - 52. Bit of a branch
 - 53. Tennis Hall of Famer Mandlikova
 - 54. Distantly
 - 55. Exploding star
 - 56. "The Price Is Right" host Carey
 - 57. Physician, familiarly
 - 58. Balatro card
- © 2026 Matt Jones

Jonesin' answer from pg 44 of 4/16



WORD★Roundup™

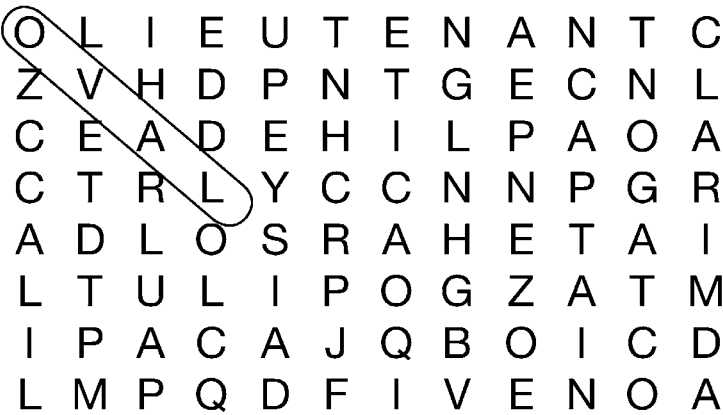
by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four shapes
- Three Navy ranks
- Three five-letter flowers
- Three four-letter numbers
- Lennon and McCartney

Last Week's Answers: CHOICE COIN COIL JOIN FOIL SOIL VOID BOIL TOIL / SCIENCE HISTORY MATH / LATVIA INDIA ITALY / DAVY JONES / HALF

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EASY

2÷		4+	
1	2÷	2-	1-
36×			
		2÷	

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CHALLENGING

3+	24×		10+		2÷
		8×	1-		
8+	3+			10+	9+
		3-	3+		
2-	2-			3÷	3+
		1-			

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RULES

- Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
- The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
- Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

6×	1-		3-
2	4	3	1
3	1	2	4
1	2	4	3
4	3	1	2

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SIGNS OF LIFE

All quotes are from *Be a Work in Progress*, by John Cena, born April 23, 1977.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *A slow start is better than no start. Take that, morning people.*

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *Don't take someone else's word on what you can accomplish. Try some stuff and find out.*

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *Hard work and persistence are needed for success, but so are rest and recovery. Perhaps with doughnuts.*

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22) *When given opportunity without direction, take initiative. Be bold. Like a toddler.*

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *Routine allows for many comforts and conveniences, but it can prevent you from learning valuable things about yourself. Mix it up a little.*

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *If you feel as if you have things mastered, look to the level above you, and then widen your frame to see an even bigger picture. Zoom in, zoom out, zoom all around.*

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) *Rejection is simply a difference of opinion. Agree to disagree.*

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) *Continue to be curious about who you are becoming. Keep the same curiosity for those relationships you hold dear. Always more to learn.*

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19) *To know who you are is to know who you are not. But to know who you are not is not necessarily to know who you are.*

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *If you have trouble trusting others, start by asking how well you trust yourself. Baby steps.*

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *The worst type of ques-*

tion is the one that is not asked. If you want to know, you have to ask.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *The only person you need to prove yourself to is you. And maybe not even that.*

Sudoku Answers from pg 43 of 4/16

Puzzle A

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

Difficulty: ★

3/30

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

- tired (9)
- tired (6)
- tired (5)
- tired (7)
- tired (5)
- tired (8)
- tired (4)

SOLUTIONS

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Last Week's Answers: PUBLISHER 2. POTEMKIN 3. GARFIELD 4. ROGERS 5. FALA 6. EARNHARDT 7. THEROPOD

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Now It's Gone Too Far

A tech company has produced an AI model of Jesus Christ, the Associated Press reported on April 11. The company, Just Like Me, charges users \$1.99 per minute — or \$49.99 for 45 minutes per month — to talk to the chatbot. Its avatar is inspired by actor Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus on TV's "The Chosen." The model was trained using the King James Version translation of the Bible, as well as sermons from various preachers, and offers users words of encouragement. "You do feel a little accountable to the AI," Just Like Me CEO Chris Breed said. "They're your friend. You've made an attachment." Just Like Me isn't the only company seeking to integrate matters of faith with AI. Longbeard, a company that digitizes Catholic teachings, developed Magisterium AI, which offers religious guidance for users. Jeanne Lim of beingAI has not yet made Emi Jido, an AI Buddhist priest, available to the public. Roshi Jundo Cohen, a Zen Buddhist priest who ordained Emi Jido in 2024, hopes to see it become a hologram. "She's just meant to be a Zen teacher in your pocket," Cohen said. "It's not meant to replace human interactions." Others are wary of the marriage of AI and religion. Podcaster Graham Martin, an atheist, expressed skepticism when an AI app, Text With Jesus, started prompting him to upgrade to a premium version. "I grew up with Southern U.S. televangelism ... Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker and all that crowd. And all they had to do was get on TV once a week and tell you to send money," he said. "We've seen people around the world getting into emotional relationships with AIs. Now imagine that that's your lord and savior, Jesus Christ." *AP, April 11*

Recent Alarming Headline

A Whittier, California, resident was startled by "an explosion" on April 10, NBC4-TV reported, but the loud noise turned out not to be an explosion at all. Instead, Yuder Grau discovered a large hole in the roof and debris scattered around his living room. The culprit was a block of dirty ice, which shattered into a few pieces. When Grau started sweeping up the pieces, he noticed a foul odor coming from them. NBC4 meteorologist David Biggar, a pilot, said the debris might have been frozen waste or water from a plane. "There can also be something like maybe a leaky valve or leaky seal somewhere," he said. The Federal Aviation Administration said it had not received a report about the incident. Grau's landlady, Thania Magana, said she reviewed flight data from the time of the incident and found that three planes had flown overhead, but both Southwest Airlines and Delta Airlines said they had received no reports of maintenance issues on the flights. *NBC4, April 10*

What's in a Name?

The German soccer club Fortuna Duesseldorf announced on April 12 that it is replacing its coach, the Associated Press reported. The outgoing coach is Markus Anfang, whose last name

means "beginning" or "start" in German. The new coach, Alexander Ende, whose name means "end," will coach the final five games of the season. Fortuna is in a precarious position for the season; Ende said he is "convinced that together with everyone at Fortuna we will secure our place in the league." *AP, April 13*

The Passing Parade

Westlake, Ohio, police were asked to check in on a 91-year-old woman who had failed to answer several calls to her home on April 9, News5 Cleveland reported. When they arrived at her house, she didn't answer the door, either. Police Chief Jerry Vogel said when officers entered the home, they found her playing a video game in her bedroom. She told them she missed the calls because she was trying to beat her record. *News5 Cleveland, April 10*

Great Art

Ari Hodara, 58, of Paris is the proud owner of a 1941 Picasso painting worth \$1 million, the Associated Press reported. Remarkably, he paid only \$117 for it. Hodara entered a raffle at Christie's auction house in Paris and found out on April 14 that his ticket had been drawn for the artist's "Head of a Woman." Hodara, who calls himself an art amateur but is fond of Picasso, said he would "take advantage of it and keep it." The raffle was in support of Alzheimer's research. *AP, April 14*

Near-Death Experience

Monica Deyanira Cabrera Barajas, 26, of Mexico is just happy to be alive after a mishap with her nose ring, Oddity Central reported on April 14. Bothered by a monthlong cough that wouldn't resolve, she finally headed to the doctor for an X-ray, which revealed the cough culprit: her nose ring. "The only theory I have, which I told the pulmonologist, is that I fell asleep, the little ball fell out, and that was it," Deyanira said. "I was lying on my back, I didn't realize, and that's how I messed up." The tiny circular metal barbell was found just half a millimeter from her aorta, and she had to undergo not one but two procedures to extract the ring safely. Its placement put Deyanira at risk of puncturing a lung or major blood vessel, which doctors say would have likely led to her death. Deyanira plans to steer clear of nose rings from now on. "I love piercings, and I really liked my septum piercing, but in my case, I wouldn't get it again because of the terror I experienced," she said. *Oddity Central, April 14*

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

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